

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Submission into cost of living pressures on older Australians

I am 68 years old and since 1999 have been living on part pension centerlink and the remnants of my state super \$20,000 a year . I have not increased my super pension of \$20,000 since 1999 as I wish to make my super last as long as possible. So I have been on a set income except for centrelink increases which are minimal. It is fortunate that my super has been able to last as long as this due to the current share market boom.

I was a TAFE teacher on \$50,000 a year. The current average yearly wage in Australia is basically at this level now.

I paid tax all my life and on my super and still at my age I am still paying tax on my yearly income. Tax on tax as well as GST Double or triple tax. I feel that at my age I should be tax exempt. This is not the case.

Since 1999 everything you can think of in basic living has skyrocketed. It is expected. So the older person gets screwed as they get older. Where is the quality of life? We then become a liability for the Government as we are not able to live independently in our own homes.

I realise that there are many pension benefits and this helps but rates, water, electricity etc go up faster than the benefits given.

I have paid private medical benefits all my life and now as I am older I need these benefits but they are increasing at a horrendous rate. I wonder how long I can afford to pay as my medical bills are constantly increasing. In particular the non prescription medicine I must buy. It appears that more and more medicines are becoming non prescription medicines.

As I live in my own home it becomes difficult to maintain as the house get older. Should I downsize I still have to maintain the house and its insurance costs. It does not get cheaper .

As time gets on I will become increasing isolated from society just having to survive paying the bills as they come. Many older people are getting into debt credit cards, reverse mortgage just to survive and they lose everything they have worked for all their lives.

As costs increase I am will be unable to participate in the many volunteer organisations which saves the government money. That is a shame.

It is obvious that retirees will always be under pressure until they die. Then it is someone leses burden.

What I believe is a follows.

- 1 Every person over the age of 65 should get a pension regardless of their income.

- 2 This will eliminate the cost of monitoring the system by centrelink in regards to part pensions and the like. Cost saving for government
- 3 No pensioner with income below \$100,000 or \$200,000 should pay tax
- 4 This will save the taxation office the extra problems. Cost saving for the Government.
- 5 Pensioners with income over \$200,000 should pay a minimum tax of say 10 cents in the dollar. Simplify tax rules.

What will be the benefits?

- 1 Consider the cost savings to the Government throughout all avenues.
- 2 Those receiving these pensions will be able to afford the cost in participating in volunteer and charity programs.
- 3 Many will donate money particularly, higher income earners, to charity and other such organisations. Thus saving the Government.
- 4 Pensioners will be able to help their children and grandchildren financially for an improved education, lifestyle, trust fund etc.
- 5 Pensioners can have an active lifestyle recycling their finances back into business and the community.
- 6 Will be able to possibly afford private health treatment. Don't have to wait two years for a knee replacement. Medical health saving.
- 7 Some of the higher income earners may be able to nominate that their pension be donated to a specified charity or organisation. Minimise Government support.

Overall pensioners would become an asset to the Government rather than a liability.

Namaste

Address as requested

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