

**I AM THANKFUL OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY CONCERNS RE IMPACT ON OUR STANDARD OF LIVING.**

1. **PETROL & FOOD PRICE INCREASES ARE A GREAT CONCERN BUT IF CARE IS TAKING IN PLANNING CAR USE, THE PETROL PRICE INCREASE IMPACT CAN BE MINIMIZED. NOT SO WITH FOOD AND OTHER GOODS AFFECTED.**  
**I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT G.S.T. WAS A BETTER SYSTEM THAN THE OLD SALES TAX, AS IF YOU CAN AFFORD LUXURIES THEN YOU PAY TAX BUT IF YOU ARE IN THE LOWER INCOME BRACKET THEN BY NOT INDULGING IN LUXURIES YOU ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO PAY TAX.**  
**THE ONLY PROBLEM I SEE IS THAT TO OFFSET G.S.T. IMPACT ON FIXED INCOME EARNERS IS TO INCREASE THE PENSION ALLOWANCE BY 5%. THE SECRET TO G.S.T. SUCCESS IS THE PROPER ADJUSTMENTS IN SOCIAL SECURITY.**
2. **YOU ASKED OF GAS & ELECTRICITY COSTS. WE NOW USE A BLANKET TO KEEP WARM WHEN WATCHING T.V. IN THE EVENING.**
3. **THE CURRANT INCOME TAX SYSTEM OF NOT PAYING TAX IF INCOME IS UNDER \$39,000 FOR A COUPLE WAS A WELCOME RELIEF, BUT ASK YOURSELF WHAT IS A COUPLES STANDARD OF LIVING IF THEIR INCOME IS LESS THAN \$39,00 PER YEAR.**
4. **RECENTLY THE ASSETS TEST WAS AMENDED.**  
**THESE NEW LAWS OBVIOUSLY WERE A HELP TO MANY ON THE ASSETS TEST BUT DO NOTHING FOR COUPLES ON THE INCOME TEST. IF A COUPLE HAD SAY \$250,00 INVESTED AND THE DEEMING RATE WAS REDUCED BY .5% THEY WOULD RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$24 A WEEK.**
5. **PRIVATE HEALTH, COUNCIL RATES, INSURANCE, ARE LARGE ANNUAL COSTS THAT HAVE INCREASED SHARPLEY OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS.**  
**WE HAVE CANCELLED OUR INSURANCE AS IT CANNOT BE AFFORDED, BUT WE STILL HAVE PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE WHICH WE SAVE FOR AND PAY ALLUALLY ON A SHARE & SAVE POLICY.**  
**COUNCIL RATES? WELL WHAT CAN ONE DO ABOUT THAT? IF THE BUDGET COULD AFFORD IT AN INCREASE OF 10% GOVERNMENT CONTRUBITION TOWARDS HEALTH INSURANCE AND A \$500 GRANT AGAINST COUNCIL RATES COULD BE CLAIMED BY THOSE ELLIGIBLE THIS WOULD ENHANCE LIVING STANDARDS CONSIDERABLY FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS.**

**I WAS SELF FUNDED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BUT INFLATION AND LOWER INTEREST RATES HAVE GRADUALLY TAKEN THEIR TOLL TO THE POINT THAT I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER SELLING THE HOME I WORKED ALL MY LIFE TO GET FOR MY RETIREMENT.**

**LOWER INTEREST RATES ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE YOUNG ONES TO START, BUT THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT HELP THE FIXED INCOME RETIREES. THAT CAN ONLY BE ADJUSTED BY SOCIAL SERVICES UNTIL THE MODERN USE OF SUPERANNUATION KICKS IN.**



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