

**COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW. INC.  
BATHURST BRANCH. 298 HOWICK STREET, BATHURST. NSW. 2795 'phone 63321828**

PRESIDENT Ross McCourt 63372536 VICE PRESIDENT Jennifer Short 63316924 VICE PRESIDENT Brian Cowan 63319151

SECRETARY Beryl Turnbull 63321828 FACSIMILIE 63321845 EMAIL bxcpsa@lisp.com.au

Bathurst C. P. S.A. is a non-sectarian, non party political organisation caring for the welfare of its pensioner and self funded retiree membership.

19th July, 2007-07

**The Secretary,  
Senate Community Affairs Committee,  
P.O.Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra.ACT 2000  
Dear Sir/Madam,**

**On behalf of our large Branch membership, I wish to submit the following statements for the Senate Community Affairs Committee's perusal.**

**Most of us have received the interesting booklet from Mr. Costello explaining "Better Super" stating that we have had to build a strong economy and now it is time to lock in the gains and help people to provide for their future. This is a very good thing to do for the average Australian, who is fully employed and working for a secure future in retirement.**

**At the same time, there are many Australians who worked just as hard to help make Australia the "Lucky Country: by paying 7 ½ % of their wages into Social Security (a form of superannuation) to provide for the aged pension on retirement.**

**These funds were transferred to Consolidated Revenue and then paid out to finance the Snowy River Scheme, with full intentions of re-imburement to be used for future needs of retiring workers as The Aged Pension, which was never to be income taxed. These funds were the future Social Security of the workers, and were never returned after the Snowy River Scheme was completed.**

**Now, under the profitable GST, Pensioners are being taxed with (inadequate compensation). at the same rate as the wealthiest people in Australia, therefore experiencing great hardship.**

**The Prime Minister,quoted in Hansard ,Question Time during 2006 stated "Since my Government came to power, pensioners are better off by \$20.00 a week, and now receive a pension of \$400.00." This was widely discussed, as , yes, the pension was \$200 a WEEK, which added up to \$400 per fortnight, but the impression to many was that it was the weekly pension.**

**Since the GST was introduced, pensioners are worse off by \$30 per week(see small article in Daily Telegraph 2/4/04 page 15)and now, 7 years later, with higher prices, still 10% of higher prices which is not nearly covered by small compensation.**

**Pensioners and low income earners are on the breadline, that's about all they'll be able to afford to eat soon, keeping in mind that during our working days, we all paid the 7 ½ % of our wages Social Security Tax as a form of Superannuation for our future.**

**There are many Australians living in poverty under conditions as bad as many of the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries that we in Australia generously support.**

**WE would really welcome the opportunity for our representatives to talk with the committee or hear from you with an explanation as to why Australia's Aged Pensioners, who worked hard all their lives to earn wages and paid tax in good faith, as Social Security, are still being taxed the same as the wealthiest in the land.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Beryl Turnbull Secretary CPSA Bathurst**