

It is refreshing to read about the terms of inquiry in the up-coming Senate Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians.

In addition to your terms of reference, is it possible to go one step further and publish, in straight facts, the following:

(In the last 24 months)

The (average across the States) percentage increase in the retail price/cost of:

1. Food
2. Petrol
3. Diesel
4. Domestic electricity
5. Domestic gas
6. Motor vehicle licensing
7. Domestic water
8. Domestic Council Rates

This example is not exhaustive.

Then compare these percentages with the percentage increase in the value of the Age Pension,

And just publish the figures, in addition to the usual verbiage like “impact of cost pressures”, “adequacy of current tax”?

For example:

Retail cost increases in the past 10 years:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Increase (%)</u>
Food	17
Petrol	15
Diesel	etc
Domestic electricity	etc
Domestic gas	etc
Motor vehicle licensing	etc
Domestic water	etc
Domestic Council Rates	etc.....

<u>Pension</u>	<u>Increase (%)</u>
Age	5.5

Something like this – easier for older Australians to understand.

Or is this too simplistic?

John Bradbury, (age pensioner)

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