

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

11th July 2007

Sir,

In response to the Committee's public invitation for submissions regarding cost of living pressures on older Australians, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

1. My wife and I are both disabled pensioners in our late Fifties/early Sixties, and as such have not been tax-payers for a number of years.
2. We still have an interest-only mortgage on our house necessitated by our drastic change of financial circumstances through disablement.
3. We have a modest motor vehicle which one of us is still physically able to drive. This vehicle is not a luxury, but a necessity in order to attend our many regular visits to doctors and medical specialists.
4. During the recent past we have had to cope with all the additional financial pressures of increased interest rates, dramatically increased fuel prices and ever-increasing prices at the supermarket.
5. Unlike the millions of other Australian who received some measure of federal government relief in the form of tax-cuts, we have received absolutely nothing whatsoever to offset any of the above-mentioned increased charges.

Whilst we have come to the conclusion that pensioners such as us are an anathema to the present federal government, it is truly iniquitous that we should be so totally disregarded by them.

Yours faithfully,

Alan & Elizabeth Hutchins