



08.07.07.

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee,
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir,

Submission re Poverty of
Aged Pensioners

I am Mrs. Teddy Thompson, aged 75 years, living alone and herby submit my fortnightly expenditure for your Committee's perusal. Being soley dependant on the Age Pension I find I am barely existing. My pension of \$633 p/f. less \$20 repayment of advance and \$10 to Intergral Energy deducted by Centrelink leaving \$603 p/f. really is inadequate

Car Expenses. In April 2007 my 1979 Mazda Sedan finally went to the car graveyard. I am unable to walk distance and as there is NOT ANY public transport in Ulladulla I have had to invest in a 1990 Nissan money for which was loaned by a friend repaid by me at \$20 p/f.

Repairs maintenance etc will be carried out by a friend. Garage charges are unaffordable.

Clothing - Unaffordable - not even from op. shops. Rely on generosity of friends donating unwanted items

Entertainment - Unaffordable - not even a movie.

Household

Appliance

replacement - Unaffordable - go without

Out of town

medical specialists - These require fee up front. Last was in Wollongong fee \$130 - St Vincent de Paul helped also with Community Transport Aid enabling my attendance.

Pharmaceuticals - Government rebate does not cover all (e.g. Quinine and Vitamin D. - not on P.B.S.)

Veterinary^{or} fees.

Helped by St. Vincent de Paul Have a Jack Russell Terrier now aged 11 ⁷/₁₂ years & like me having health problems hence repayment by me each fortnight to cover ~~the~~ consultation vaccinations & medications

Telephone

Government allowance of \$20 per quantre covers rental for only one month. I have a seriously ill son in A.C.T., on Centrelink payments. I have a landline he does not - he has a mobile I do not. I must keep in

contact so this account is huge - help again from St V. de P.

Electricity This has been an exceptionally bitter Winter - as one ages & becomes less mobile the cold really bites. My flat is freezing necessitating heater using Integral Energy power. Account due at end of August will be huge - again help from St V. de Paul will be needed.

Food & Groceries Cost of fresh fruit & vegetables is fast becoming out of financial reach. I do need to keep good nutrition but 'tis almost unaffordable.

Cosmetics - unaffordable. Chemist sometimes gives discontinued lines

Haircut - Once per month - hairdresser gives pensioner rate of \$20-

Newspapers - Can only afford one - Sunday paper at \$1.80 - i.e. \$3.60 p/w.

Holiday - whats that?

Gifts - family & friends - Sons, their spouses & 3 grand-daughters receive only \$10 for birthdays & Xmas all others a \$2 Lottery ticket

Photography - Cost of processing is not affordable.

As you will see by the information given the depressing reality is the Age Pension is well below the poverty line and only just about half of the basic wage.

4

I often feel my reliance on the Welfare of St Vincent de Paul is turning me into a beggar. I have always been an independant soul but am most grateful for help given by the good folk at St Vinnies although it hurts to ask.

I trust this information will assist your Committee and I would appreciate results of its findings in due course.

yours faithfully

(Mrs). Liddy Thompson

Expenditure
Average fortnightly

Rental	\$ 230
A.H.M. (Ancillary Health Fund)	16. 30
Insurance line (funeral fund)	16 66
A.A.M.I. (Third Party Property Ins.)	6. 45
Telstra	20. 00
Integral	40. 00
Petrol	30. 00
Allens (local store)	10 00
Vet	15. 00
Coles (GE Finance)	30 00
Car loan repayment	20: 00
Hair cut	10: 00
	\$ 444 40

leaves \$159
(barely covers
grocery shopping)

add butcher - meat for dog
and myself
\$30.