

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO THE COST OF LIVING PRESSURES ON OLDER AUSTRALIANS

Terms of Reference

On 14 June 2007 the Senate referred the following matters to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 13 September 2007:

- (a) the cost of living pressures on older Australians, both pensioners and self-funded retirees, including:
 - (i) the impact of recent movements in the price of essentials, such as petrol and food,
 - (ii) the costs of running household utilities, such as gas and electricity, and
 - (iii) the cost of receiving adequate dental care;
- (b) the impact of these cost pressures on the living standards of older Australians and their ability to participate in the community;
- (c) the impact of these cost pressures on older Australians and their families, including caring for their grandchildren and social isolation;
- (d) the adequacy of current tax, superannuation, pension and concession arrangements for older Australians to meet these costs; and
- (e) review the impact of government policies and assistance introduced across all portfolio areas over the past 10 years which have had an impact on the cost of living for older Australians.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 20 July 2007.

The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document - email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected.

Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the internet at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515,
Fax: (02) 6277 5829. E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au