

To:
Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
From:
Geoff Warren

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Re-Disabilities and Aging

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am 55 years of age and I receive a disability pension through Centrelink and a specific injury part pension through Veterans Affairs. Centrelink has a computer deeming program that takes away part of the V.A. pension as not allowed extra income. To me this does not seem correct either legally or morally. The programming criteria of this software, projects a non-factual situation. A situation such as what it would be possible to earn from interest over a year based on a given amount that just happens to be in your bank account in any given pay period. This then generates a fictional income that does not exist in reality. This software does not take into account that the amounts given are not even invested they are spent on fortnightly budgets; they are not even in bank accounts for any length of time. The Centrelink deeming program actually makes false assumptions about amounts of income. As this situation obviously happens to many thousands of ex service men and women it could probably be reviewed at some stage by an appropriate government body or department. It is a sorry state to have served your country then be awarded a pension only to have Centrelink take some of it away again. This is about real people not merely numbers! Veterans Affairs Pensions should be exempt from Centrelink income deeming!

Regards,
Geoff Warren