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23 May 2005

The Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Suite DG.64
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Committee

The defects of the self-assessment system have caused me a great deal of anguish and financial upheaval. Being required to pay tax on a amended return plus interest and fines on an assessment completed several years ago that I felt was correct and law abiding came as a huge shock.

To be expected to pay the excessive interest charges at this time as I approach retirement has resulted in a great deal of stress. As a taxpayer for over forty years I feel this treatment by the tax department is most unfair.

I always believed Australia was the place for a 'fair go' but I am one of the those whose treatment caused Treasury to recommend the laws be changed however benefits of the new laws excludes me completely.

The committee should recommend that the legislation be amended for the protection of taxpayers like myself and this should apply from the beginning of the self-assessment system.

Yours Sincerely

Suzanne Curnow