

**RESTRICTIONS ON SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
ELDERLY AUSTRALIANS  
SUBMISSION ON PROPOSAL TO EXTEND AGE 70 LIMIT TO AGE 75**

1. I wish to make a submission on the age discrimination issue currently in force for Australians working beyond 70, who wish to contribute to a superannuation account or have their employers do so on their behalf
2. **New budgetary proposals announced on 9 May 2006 for extending the age constraint from age 70 to age 75 are provided for with intended implementation from 1 July 2007. The Treasurer has requested community comment on such proposals.**
3. I am currently age 71 and am caught in the transition. I have been working part time with a Civil Engineering Consultant firm for the last 5 years since a heart attack. My practice has been to salary sacrifice all my salary to enhance my superannuation / pension fund. I comply with the 40 /30 work rule.
4. Current rules for Australians over 70 disallow salary sacrifice superannuation contributions and do not require 9% superannuation guarantee contributions on salary received. Thus superannuation contributions need to be made with after tax.funds. All younger Australians are not so limited.
5. **This is age discrimination!** It surely does not comply with anti-discriminatory principles, if not also legislative protection.
6. While the current rules probably have a historical basis of encouraging early retirement, the new budget proposal simply shifts the age limit by 5 years and retains age discrimination.
7. From government rhetoric, I understand that government policy is to encourage older Australians to continue working and contribute to the national economy and lessen the tax burden on younger Australians. Superannuation contribution age limits are directly contrary to this policy. I am certainly weighing up whether it is worthwhile working on under such discrimination and tax payments.
8. I would therefore appreciate a review of the new tax proposals about extending age limits to a more enlightened position and for this to be initiated sooner than later.
9. I would recommend:
  - The age 70 / 75 limits be removed entirely.
  - Superannuation Guarantee contributions be available to the over 70 /75; or more precisely not be inapplicable ie comparable to its requirement for younger Australians.
  - **If the Government retains age discrimination, then the revised 75 age limit be available from either the date of the announcement of the new tax proposals or from 1 July 2006, and not be delayed until 1 July 2007.** (This would directly benefit my own case in regard to my 2006 / 7 salary earnings and my desire to salary sacrifice them into a superannuation account.)