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Mrs M. Williams

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To Secretary

Senate Finance & Public Administration  
Committee - LIFE TRAVEL PERKS - past  
PM's, MP's - GG's & spouses.

I wish to submit the following:

1) First I find it incredible and near  
enough a criminal offence the misuse  
of public money by past PM's, MP's, GG's  
& spouses. (i.e. Sinclair - *Advertiser News* -  
\$75,000 a year on 100 domestic flights  
and wife 70. We elected parliamentarians,  
not their spouse or partner, and surely  
not after retirement, they really are a  
use apart and who else in this country  
is receiving such favourable treatment  
and all at taxpayer expense - people who are  
struggling more and more to survive, with  
increases in taxes, levies, charges, or  
whatever they might call them, plus

<sup>2</sup> higher electricity prices & insurance, they  
are voted on by us & should work for us  
not for themselves.

2) Pensioners are given a free travel voucher  
on the rail system, inside the State in SA  
once a year - Big deal - most of us are  
unable to use it for various reasons and  
it amounts to very little anyway, in SA  
Adelaide - Pt Augusta as an example.

3) Another anomaly is the Gold card for  
ex-servicemen over 70 - which is given  
reluctantly and even refused. These are  
the people who deserve the G.C., not  
politicians who have seen very little of  
life and war especially. That G.C. is  
very restricted to mostly medical treatments  
and I believe a couple of free domestic  
travels should be added to the benefits  
once a year. Make it worthwhile.  
There is an enquiry going on at the moment  
to find out about the inequality of the  
situation.

If Mr Howard "does not believe the

3  
" current situation where all former PM  
" have unlimited access to domestic  
" travel is consistent with community standards,"  
then he should act now, immediately,  
not just talk or through a press release;  
that make the public even more suspicious  
and put the level of trustworthiness in  
politicians at the bottom of the list and  
politicians can only blame themselves and their  
behaviour. But with their thick hide they do  
not care, they continue to live the high life.  
They are rewarded well enough on leaving  
Parliament with an over generous pension, etc.  
I do not have faith in yet another submission  
or enquiry as it will go nowhere as usual  
in such instances, just a pretence. But I  
will still give my point of view.  
The whole situation is a disgusting state of  
affair.

P.S. I'm sorry no computer, NO EMAIL - NO FAX.  
HENCE ONE.

M. Williams

### Limited concessions

TOM Amos, in his letter "Vexed veterans" (*The Advertiser*, 15/7/02), has provided well-intentioned feedback to readers concerning the recent meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Entitlement Committee in Adelaide.

However, I must say that his reference to the Veterans' Affairs Gold Card as a Gold "pass" inappropriately connotes the

thoughts by people who don't know the system, that it is a free ticket.

To the contrary, the issue of a Gold Card is stringent in its eligibility and is restricted in its use for medical, dental and pharmaceutical requirements and some concessions.

The only Gold Pass I know of is given to politicians, most of whom have no idea what veterans went through to get a Gold Card.