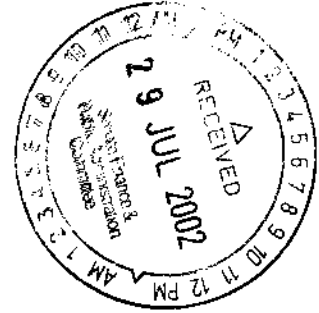


The Secretary.
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee,
Parliament House.
CANBERRA ACT 2600



17/ 7/02

David Searles
98 Bridgman Drive
Reedy Creek Qld. 4228

Re: Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Bill 2002

Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to oppose the entitlement of the Life Gold Pass for Members of Parliament. These same members in addition to free life gold pass privileges, receive enormous Superannuation benefits. Both of which are excessively higher than the normal Australian taxpayer entitlements.

Members of Parliament are recognised for not having a lifelong career, likewise so to the average taxpayer today does not have a life work guarantee, since all work is performance based. However, the Members of Parliament remain entitled to this biased inequable scheme, at a time of budgetary welfare cost concerns.

Every fair minded Australian would have to agree that the rot by former member, Senator Mal Colston, the potential of exploitation by younger former members such as Senator Bill O'Chee through future decades as well as the increasing numbers of young former Prime Ministers, encompasses an absurd expense with little or no return benefit, at a time when this country has record levels of homeless youth and suicides.

Australia would be better served if the burgeoning exorbitant Life Gold Pass costs were redirected for paid maternity entitlements as a starting point to assist towards greater family value for the growth of our nation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D R Searles', with a horizontal line underneath.