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

## **MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT (LIFE GOLD PASS) BILL 2002**

It is obvious that the Superannuation benefits available to politicians, ex-politicians and surviving spouses are excessively generous. Lump sums of over \$1 million are common with the amount for Ministers closer to the \$3 million mark – these amounts can be taken as generous pensions.

As ex-politicians of working age who want to work do so, often with excessive consultants fees, there is no need for this additional generous perk to be made available to them - it is motivated by greed and the arrogant belief that the country owes them more than their fair share. Like other public servants, the public does not owe them a living once they leave politics and to continue to excessively plunder the public purse sets a very unhealthy and totally unfair example for all other workers.

It is totally amoral to use this perk for charity work. Other essential hard working charity workers donate their time and limited financial resources to assist other with no gain in mind other than the satisfying feeling of assisting others. Obviously those that use this perk for charity work suffer a terminal case of self-importance and are completely oblivious to the real meaning of charity. Charities do not need this type of advertisement which repels rather than attracts donors.

In times when the Government tells the people to be financially responsible, it does all it can to be greedily irresponsible by allowing this and other perks to continue.

### **Recommendation:**

That this perk be completely and immediately revoked for all former politicians and surviving spouses.

That all perks (cars, offices, etc) be totally and immediately revoked.

  
BRUCE WATERHOUSE

3 August 2002.