

**Submissions
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Inquiry into
Residential and Community Aged Care in Australia**

5/2/09

Dear Senators,

Further to my recently sent submission, I wish to add that I believe Prime minister Rudd's \$42 billion economic stimulus plan should include consideration to protect the elderly in care from having their pensions cancelled by asset testing. The aged in care and their families are being persecuted by an outdated policy of cancelling the pensions of the elderly in facilities when their assets move above an assets limit - often caused by the market deciding their family home has risen in value and thus taking them over the limit - despite no speculation on their part.

Minister Macklin, responsible for asset testing, has taken a position, saying those who have lost their pensions can apply to Centrelink for a loan and later the estate can pay Centrelink back. An unfair kind of policy politicians would no doubt protect themselves from. If Prime Minister Rudd has the cash to splash and give out - and apparently he has - then surely he can protect the aged in care from having their pensions cancelled. He should raise the assets limit by a third and backdate it to when he took office, I believe.

Thank you,

JOHN DOBINSON