

MAY 2005

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

IVAN D. CARNEY

DEPARTMENT of the SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Addendum to my submission dated 06.05.2005.

o I believe that medications for the mentally ill among the homeless should be free. While the six-odd dollars per script paid by those on a Health Care Card may not seem much, it might well mean a meal in the belly. Which would you choose at "crunch time"?

o In Victoria a mentally ill person placed an Administrative Order loses 2.2% of the pension for administrative costs. (6.6% for those earning \$30,000+ per annum)

It would be fair and reasonable to return this as a lump sum at the end of the financial year to the person. Perhaps this would enable the purchase of a decent pair of shoes or a waterproof jacket, at a time of their choosing, and without having to negotiate the indignity of accessing their own funds with an administrator on a five-day week. Could this suggestion be referred to the A.T.O.?

25 MAY 2005

Yours sincerely,

Ivan D. Carney