

Mr Erik Wilson  
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ACT 2902

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and Financial Services  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Sir,

As a former member of the Commonwealth Public Service, a current member of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) (and trying to plan my retirement amidst the constant 'rule amendments' made to superannuation) and a now potential recipient of a CSS pension, I would like the Committee to consider the following.

After some 30 years of contribution to the CSS, my pension, inadequate as it is when compared to an MP's with 10 years service, (also whom it appears, are not affected by 'rule amendments') is I believe adjusted annually against the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The original concept of this method I would have thought, offered equality to all pensioners against an ever increasing cost of living. This fact has, it appears been 'lost' on successive Federal Treasurers who continually 'adjust' the contents of the 'basket of goods', which is the measure of the CPI, thus eroding the standard of living of all persons whose income is measured/adjusted using the CPI.

Will the existing Federal Treasurer include for example in this years CPI?:

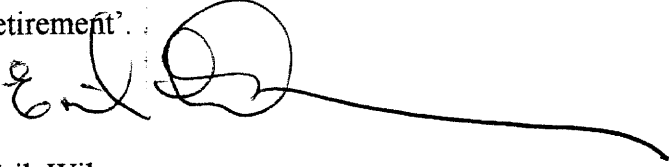
- A. Health costs, as introduced on 1 July 2000
- B. Savage, greedy and unjust excise increases on petroleum products
- C. Excessive bank cost/charges, the result of the sale of the peoples bank (CBA)

These are probably but a few of the items which increase in cost each year, but are not, as far as I'm aware included in the CPI index, presumably as a result of Federal Government 'budget adjustments'.

If the current CPI were to record the true cost of living increase and was reflected in pensions, as was the original concept, then there would probably be no need for this enquiry, presuming this enquiry is seeking to find better ways to look after it's senior citizens and not penny pinch.



If the Senate Select Committee can not see its way fit to recommend the true cost of living be reflected in the CPI/pensions, then a more realistic measure needs to be adopted rather than a more 'regressive measure' which can only make life tougher still for those who have contributed in good faith for many working years to achieve a 'fair go in retirement'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Wilson  
19 January 2001