

39 Fowles Street,
WESTON ACT 2611

20th January, 2001.

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and
Financial Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Inquiry into public sector and defence
force superannuation

As a retired public servant now dependent on a CSS pension, I wish to add my voice to those urging your committee to recognise the great injustice caused by annual CPI indexation of CSS pensions.

As statistical information available to the committee amply demonstrates, the CSS pension has been consistently failing to keep pace with the real cost of living for retired public servants and will continue to so fail unless a new formula linking pension entitlements to real wages is adopted.

This is the approach taken by the parliament itself in relation to the pensions of retired parliamentarians.

No sound basis exists for applying a less just formula to the fixing of pensions for other retired servants of the nation. Indeed to do otherwise would be discriminatory and seriously erode the efforts by parliamentarians to maintain the respect and confidence of the electorate.

When a public servant, parliamentary or APS, retires, fundamental readjustments of lifestyle and patterns of expenditure are necessary to take account of the substantially reduced income from the parliamentary or CSS pension. That is fair, reasonable, and to be expected.

But what is neither fair nor reasonable is that CSS pensioners, unlike their parliamentary counterparts, must make further annual such adjustments as the value of the buying power of their pension slips below relevant comparable earnings.

I urge the Committee to recognise this manifest injustice and recommend to the Parliament the early introduction of amendments to ensure that CSS pensions maintain their value against ongoing earnings.

Yours faithfully,


David C. Edwards PSM

