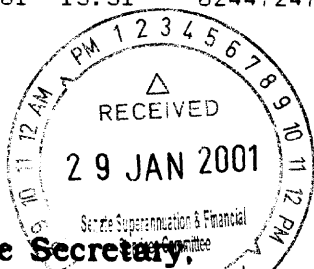


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P.O. Box 363
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29 January 2001

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

It is submitted that Commonwealth Government Public Service superannuants have been, and still are, discriminated against in relation to others in receipt of government funded benefits. In support of this contention, I present the following facts as they relate to myself - a retired Commonwealth Public Servant with 37 years' of service.

I retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where I was a Director at the top level of the scale, in 1988 and received a superannuation pension which represented 37% of my salary. Despite annual indexation in accordance with the CPI my superannuation now equates to something less than 34% of the salary of an officer at the equivalent level.

Clearly, a more equitable means of calculating superannuation pensions would be to adopt a similar method as relates to Parliamentary retirees, whose pensions I understand, are indexed as a fixed percentage of Members remuneration at any given time.

Also, age pension recipients receive many benefits which are denied to me as a former long-serving public servant. These include rates and services subsidies, access to free or subsidised medical benefits, travel, etc, for all of which, although in receipt of little more income, I must pay full price. My residual income therefore suffers adversely in comparison.

With the introduction of the GST, age pensioners received an immediate increase in pension plus lump sums to assist with the increased costs associated with the GST. As a superannuant, I received no such increase and any flow-on increase in the CPI does not reflect itself in my remuneration until the following financial year - effectively requiring me to carry increasing living costs for a year from my already depleted remuneration and keeping me a year behind for all ensuing pension adjustments.

The so-called one-off \$1,000.00 lump sum payment to compensate low income families for the GST introduction was so structured that I might have received around \$8 had I been prepared to address all of the associated red-tape. Under the re-structured Income Tax system my income group received the lowest level of benefit.

It is submitted that the system as it presently exists is structured in such a way that Australia is creating a new class of the poor - the long-serving and loyal former public servants, who are falling into a hole in the current government systems of allocation/calculation of pensions and related benefits.

I earnestly request that you address these inequities in your deliberations.

Raymond J Casley-Smith, J P.

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