

Issue # 1

I am 63 years of age and am being paid a Widow allowance by the Government of some \$247 a week.

I hear on the radio that the Australian minimum weekly pay is \$569.90. This nearly kills me hearing that.

I have worked hard all my life, payed taxes all my life, until I was forced to retire 2 years back due to needing major surgery. I raised 4 fabulous Aussie children; all of whom are working and paying taxes.

Next April on my birthday, I will be eligible for the aged pension, which is currently \$322 per week for a single person. (Less if you have term deposits earning interest).

Surely there needs to be a legislation put in place for specialty cases such as mine, where I'm too young to get the age pension yet not confident enough now to go out and work, if indeed there was work for me.

I have had to cut meat from my diet, along with many other foods, actively seek out products that are on special, drive the car to the shops only once a week, feel isolated in my home because I can't afford to take the car out more than my weekly food shop. The list is endless, but suffice to say, this is not how I imagined my older years would be like. It is hard to stay positive and optimistic when one is now just subsisting, and the feeling of vulnerability does not sit well with me.

Issue # 2

I own my own villa in a retirement village but have it on the market as the fees to live here are too dear; aside from the price rises in utilities, water, rates and foods etc. etc. Some \$50,000 will be imposed on me when I sell due to exit fees, which diminishes my future buying power considerably. I knew about the exit fees when I bought in here, I just did not think I would be leaving; but as everything is going up so much around me including the village fees; currently \$72 a week with a rise imminent, I just cannot afford to live here anymore.

The Government MUST bring in a law to stop scheme operators of retirement villages from charging exit fees. It is crippling when one sells.

Thank you for listening

Kind regards

Robyn Gwynne