

DATE: Wednesday, 7 July 2010

Disability Care and Support Inquiry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY 2601
ACT

I wish to add to my suggestions made to the Productivity Commission in my letter dated 27 May 2010.

I am again dismayed to learn that the housing rental inflation rate has been confirmed for this year alone as being upwards of 02.7% and in the last month the figure is reported as being upwards of 04%.

Sadly I have yet to hear any politician on either side of politics give any word of genuine concern to those of us who rent . . . moreover, to those like myself who subsist on a Disability Support Pension.

And what does this percentage increase mean in real terms?

With the average rent for housing recognised by government to be \$370 per week in Adelaide (the cheapest) and \$470 per week in Darwin (the most expensive) - the Australian mean rate being \$420 per week, this in cold hard cash terms means that the 2.7% inflation figure equates to a \$11.34 per week increase in rent, and the 4% inflation figure equates to a massive \$16.80 per week increase in rent . . . and this is on top of the over \$100 per week increase in the average rent that the renter has had to 'take on the chin' over the last five years.

What a sorry joke!

What a pathetic government!

Obviously the political technocrat, the bureaucrat and the government just doesn't get it!

The poorest in society and those who suffer disability who rent are rapidly seeing themselves cast out into the streets like mere beggars by a government that simply doesn't care because of the simple fact that government on both sides of politics refuse to acknowledge and address the problem of rent increases . . . by equally increasing the rent assistance component of the Pension . . . all the while propping up a landowning and working middle class with a fist full of social welfare payments and negative gearing benefits.

Here, in this open letter, I want government to realise that the Pensioner . . . especially those with a disability, simply can not absorb one extra cent increase in rent on an income already

well below the Henderson poverty line . . . let alone a massive \$16. 80 per week increase.

Therefore I submit that the very first thing that this commission addresses is to immediately advise government that the disabled who rents only ever pay a fixed percentage of their Pension for their accommodation (Public or Private) at no more than 50% of their Pension, and government pays the full difference . . . until all Pensioners who rent and whose income is made up only of their Pension, can be placed by the Department of Housing into Government Housing (which is a pathetic joke at the moment with a waiting list of over twenty years in the region in which I reside, being the Northern Rivers of NSW - no matter the current Minister's hype on housing projects and buck passing to the State Governments!)

This issue of increasing homelessness in Australia . . . and an Australia that government touts on the world stage as has being amongst the very few wealthy nations . . . is nothing but an abject failure of successive Australian administrations in order to appease the working middle classes greed and electoral lobbying power.

For the homeless and the renting Pensioner, all that is left is but a simmering contempt for such a systemic system of abusing the poorest and weakest amongst the Australian community . . . and when the poor and the disabled are treated in this manner by their own government, that government no longer represents the population and truly deserves the contempt of all.

Yours sincerely

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