

To the Officer in charge,

Productivity Commission inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following are my personal thoughts on the establishment of a future National Natural Disaster fund for Australia,

with no personal advantage to myself.

I refer to my letter to our Prime Minister, copy attached, and following are my thoughts on how the fund could be set up and administered. Initially the Government could sit down with the 4 major banks who are currently posting record profits and struggling to gain the respect of their customers, and suggest as a good will gesture to revive this respect, they could donate annually 5% of their profits into the above fund, established by the Government with an initial grant of say \$10 million. Naturally the banks would have to get permission from their Share Holders, but I am sure this would not be a problem. Once the fund is established, one of the 4 banks could become the major sponsor by providing their software to process loans to those directly effected by Natural Disasters.

These loans could be over a 20 year term, free of any Interest charges. This would not only allow the recipient to get back on their feet financially given time, but it would also, preserve their dignity and self esteem. Currently under the existing system, the most deserving cases often miss out on the grant money available because they are too proud to receive what they consider to be charity, while others can tend to take advantage of the situation by claiming funds as an entitlement.

Approval of the loans, in my opinion, could be best managed by a not for profit Community Service organization such as the Uniting Church of Australia. I have suggested the UCA for the following reasons;

It was Founded in 1977 in an attempt to unite Religions (non denominational)

Has the necessary network of agencies, Uniting Care in all States.

Currently provides more welfare assistance to the needy in Australia than all the other churches and welfare organizations combined, including the Salvation Army.

Naturally the qualification criteria would need to be managed professionally but I have only attempted to put forward very briefly an overall concept which I believe, given my 36 years as a personel manager in the Finance Industry, could go a long way in giving everyone a fair go and bring some equity and pride back to this lucky country of ours.

In my personal opinion our wealthy country needs to do more LISTENING to the ordinary people, and actually hear their opinions, and a bit less to those in powerful positions, or the so called disadvantaged, and try and improve the communications between the two and get a better balalance of opinion, and I firmly believe the above plan would go some

way to arrest the current trend where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. I had hoped to present this proposal in person, so that I could try and answer any questions, but I gather that is not possible so I trust your dept will complete an appropriate S.W.O.T. analysis and fill me in on the outcome.

Respectfully yours

Gary Shaw.

Just another ordinary proud Australian since 1945.

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To our Prime Minister,

The Hon Tony Abbott,

Dear Sir,

I was employed in the Banking Industry for 36 years, and was retrenched in 1997, after being told, the trouble with me was I was too honest for my own good. Naturally I took this as a compliment, and subsequently accepted a package which included a reference supporting this fact, which was not the policy of the bank at that time.

With Banks continuing to boast about their huge profits, I question. What about those who are suffering the extreme hardships as a result of Natural Disasters through absolutely no fault of their own, have to rebuild their lives, after a flood , fire etc. Insurance Co are taking less and less responsibility, even if the policy holders consider that they have sufficient cover.

My question Prime Minister is why can't the Government set up a Natural Disaster fund in readiness for all FUTURE disasters, instead of appealing for the public to contribute to all the various appeals?. This fund could be launched by levying the 4 major banks for starters, with say a mere 5% of their profits every year. This would be a voluntary levy, not a tax and naturally they would need to get the permission from their share holders.

At present, the distribution of appeal funds fairly has been a huge problem. This could be overcome by lending funds over a period of say 20 years, with no interest charged. This would preserve the dignity of the subject, by not having to accept charity.

As for who would administer the loans, I believe a possibility could be the Uniting Church of which I have been a member for 37 years.

Prime Minister, I have only given you a concept, not a plan, and I would appreciate having the opportunity to discuss in more detail my thoughts on how this could all work, with someone who would prepared to hear me. So far all my efforts to communicate my thoughts have fallen on deaf ears, so to speak.

Respectfully yours,

Gary Shaw,

A proud Australian citizen.