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The Hon Peter Dutton
Minister for Health
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

I am writing to express the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association's concern regarding the impending development of the new NDIS legislation.

Along with other retiree organisations, we have already expressed our concerns that the benefits of the NDIS will not be extended to those who contract a recognised disability *after* reaching the age of 65, even though such people would still have to pay the planned increase in the Medicare Levy.

We are writing to you again to provide more information supporting our case.

Why should people over 65 be forced to pay an additional 0.5% Medicare Levy if they are not going to be covered by the NDIS?

SCOA considers this to be a most unjust situation. If people over 65 do not have access to the scheme, then the new legislation should exempt this group from paying the additional Medicare Levy.

I would like to point out that, due to the unfair taxation of Commonwealth superannuation pensions from "untaxed" defined benefit funds, many Commonwealth superannuation pensioners are subject to the Medicare Levy even though they have no income tax liability due to the 10% offset (that is not a rebate).

Almost all of the retirees living within this country have worked hard throughout their lives, have paid their just taxes, and are now facing a degree of uncertainty with their financial future. This is not a proper time to introduce an additional financial burden on them when it is patently obvious that this additional component of the Medicare Levy will be of no relevance to them.

We ask that your Government please give this matter serious consideration and take the necessary steps to either extend the NDIS to cover those who become disabled after age 65 or exclude taxpayers over the age of 65 from having to pay this additional Medicare Levy.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely


John Coleman
FEDERAL PRESIDENT