

Dear

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Government's decision to use only the CPI to index the Age Pension from 2017. Those of us affected have helped to make Australia the great country it is today and to attack us by failing to maintain the real value of our pensions is most unfair. We deserve better.

The Parliament's decision in 1997 to introduce the present indexation arrangements was an acknowledgement that the CPI does not measure the actual prices we pay for goods and services due to quality adjustments to that index. The Government's more recent decision to drop the CPI as the sole indexation tool for some military superannuants was further acknowledgement of the CPI's inappropriateness as a way to adjust pensions.

Senior Australians are being asked to bear a disproportionately high share of Budget cost savings measures. To then have us also bear pension adjustments that don't keep up with actual price increases is not in the spirit of the fair go Australians expect and deserve.

I am aware that over the past 20 or so years, retired MPs who joined Parliament prior to the 2004 election have had their pensions increase by about twice the percentage of the increase in the CPI. Both the Prime Minister and the Treasurer will enjoy that same rate of increase when they retire. How can that be fair?

Would you please make representations to have the Government not proceed with its proposed reversion to CPI indexation of the Age Pension?

I look forward to your response.