



Superannuated
Commonwealth
Officers'
Association
(Federal Council) Inc.

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Senator Zed Seselja
Assistant Minister for Social Services and
Multicultural Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Zed

I write to congratulate you on your appointment as the Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs.

One of SCOA's main objectives over a long period of time has been achieving a fairer indexation of our pensions. Although we realise that in the current financial and economic conditions, our chances of achieving this goal are pretty remote, should economic conditions improve in the future, we will increase our efforts to secure a more appropriate method of indexation.

Meanwhile, in the next twelve months, we will focus on a number of other issues including the resetting of the taper rate for the Age Pension assets test; an adjustment of the deeming rate to bring it more into line with the current level of interest rates; some taxation issues, and, most importantly, repealing the *Social Services Legislation (Defined Benefit Income Streams) Act 2015*. This legislation has impacted badly on many thousands of defined benefit superannuants by reducing their Age Pension significantly, even in some cases to zero. SCOA will not give up on this issue.

Rather than rushing through the recently announced changes to superannuation, SCOA, along with other retiree organisations, would welcome a thorough review of the superannuation system and its interaction with the welfare and pension systems. We believe such a review is long overdue and SCOA would very much like to be part of such a review.

I would be delighted to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the above issues and many others. I will contact your office in the near future to see if we can find a mutually convenient time to meet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. J. Barbetti'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Annette Barbetti
FEDERAL PRESIDENT