

We The People

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Good day to you. You may be aware of the impending changes to the aged pension, commencing in January 2017 but most likely you don't have any idea yet if it will affect you. We are told by Prime Minister Turnbull, that the changes are necessary to ensure the pension is affordable into the future and to deal with the catastrophic damage caused to the national accounts by the Rudd/Gillard governments. Now, since those financially incompetent people left office, with their leaders now enjoying the life of Riley, it's also true that the Coalition has further increased the already calamitous debt. This leaves a dreadful legacy for our children and grandchildren. In my view the Coalition made a stupid mistake fostering the midterm takeover by Malcolm Turnbull from Tony Abbott. We see weak leadership now and indecisive machinations creating a lack lustre performance where the 'have nots' pay yet again. On the other hand Labor is no better, again promising the world with no real plan to tackle the mess their party left us and in fact a stated desire to drive up the national debt by an additional \$16 billion dollars.

So in an effort to show how decisive he is the merchant banker PM announced changes to the pension, after all, knocking pensioners is a blood sport in Australian politics. I have spent days on the phone and in person with a hapless Centrelink trying to make sense of the changes. In part this was for my own sake as I am on a part pension and know full well just how hard it is to make ends meet. The news is that in January my part pension **is reduced by \$70 each week**. I'm not on my own and according to Q Super there will be over 326,000 pensioners drawing far less. Now we aren't talking about a lot of income I can assure you and the humble superannuation I and many have is through our own hard work over a life time. We came from an era of good work ethics, diligence and personal responsibility.

After figuring this out I am now writing this narrative at 1.30 am to at least bring it to your attention. I have also written to the federal member for McPherson, Karen Andrews and ask a lot of pertinent questions so she can properly and effectively represent us. I will report to you what Ms Andrews does to assist us or not as the case may be, without fear or favour. In the meantime this aging baby boomer has to re-jig his budget ready for Turnbull's terrible turmoil in the new year. The first thing to go will be my private health cover as that saves me a fair bit even though it just loads up the public health system and I won't be on my own. The rest will come from reducing other living expenses starting with a reduction in caviar and champagne and smoked salmon pâté. The foie gras will have to go too and as you may know this is a British twist on the French classic made from truffles and the naturally fattened livers of free range Norfolk geese. Maybe Malcolm can spare some for 'we the mug people'. Put simply, you can't create national progress or fairness by robbing the 65 plus pensioners.

I provided Karen Andrews MP with a short list of savings examples they could make without targeting the over 65's. These include stopping foreign aid now because we borrow money we don't have to give away to other countries which is ludicrous and that would save four billion dollars each year. Remember, we have 2.9 million Australians now living below the poverty line including 731,000 children. So when Julie Bishop tells you we should give away money we don't have, to poor countries who don't like us with filthy rich leaders just remember she too enjoys silver service and flies first class. Other suggestions for savings include a cessation of immigration for the time being, drug testing all dole recipients, no assistance for those who sabotage their own job interviews through poor presentation, no dole for all Australians who won't follow work opportunities, no support for men with multiple wives and children, quarantine negative gearing tax deductions, reform the tax treatment of private trusts, make big business pay their fair share of tax, stop the perks and double dipping of ex-politicians, and reduce the ABC's obscene budget of \$1.2 billion a year. While you're at it stop the highly ineffective Direct Action Plan which is a useless attempt to address climate change then limit the NDIS payments as the current scheme is unaffordable and in any case it often relies heavily on 'we the baby boomers' as carers and finally simply add \$2 to all medical scripts. Now these are just a few issues you could look at before slugging the over 65 pensioners. There are many more without having to max out the national credit card or to hurt ordinary pensioners.

I propose the over 65's are different because we came through post WW2 and knew nothing of superannuation and believed the pension was there when we retired. Our parents were mostly poor and after all, we have well and truly done our bit for Australia. Successive governments have bowed to minority groups, unions and political correctness and ordered a clutch of unaffordable multibillion dollar submarines and presided over massive debt and now you want the select group of over 65s to pay for governments folly. It's not right and it's not fair and this is precisely why new people are emerging in politics like Donald Trump in the USA, Nigel Farage in Britain and at home Pauline Hanson and Nick Xenophon, Bernard Gaynor and Kirralie Smith, Jacque Lambie even Derryn Hinch. So Mr Turnbull, rethink your position on the over 65s you are about to rob, else we just see you as a disposable show pony.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley