

The Treasurer

Dear Sir,

I write in response to an article by Noel Whittaker in the Sunday Mail of 5 April 09 which raised the possibility of the abolition of the dividend-imputation system.

The loss of this tax relief and subsequent probable double taxation on dividends would seriously affect the independence of my wife and myself as self-funded retirees. Our DIY super fund has a majority of its funds invested in the equity market and have seen its value reduced by 50%!

The GFC has seen many companys forced to reduce dividends and to exacerbate that income loss with the imposition of a tax burden would be quite soul destroying.

We both are in our early seventies and though active in the community are past our working life. We have experienced a number of these boom-bust cycles previously, but at a younger age were able to restore our wealth through work as the economy improved. At our age that opportunity does not now exist.

We hope that our concerns are baseless and only a rumour of which there a many at this time. If however there is some consideration being given to such tax imposition on retirees then that would be most disappointing since the amount of tax squeezed out of self funded retirees over 70 would be insignificant compared to the enormity of the reduction in quality of life suffered by those past heavy tax payers in their twilight years.

We trust that our submission will not fall on deaf ears.

Yours faithfully
R J Cozens