

Dear Sirs,

I refer you to the following press articles –

1. Sunday Mail, Noel Whittaker, March 29, 2009, page 55, "Self-funded retirees to feel health pain"
2. Sunday Mail, Noel Whittaker, April 5, 2009, page 65, "A tax system under siege"
3. Eureka Report, Alan Kohler, March 30, 2009, "Will Henry sink imputation".

As a self funded retiree I find the above articles most disturbing. It would appear that the Labour Government is about to launch an all-out fiscal attack on citizens like myself. My wife and I have a combined taxable income of less than **[removed for privacy reasons]** per year (2007-2008 financial year,) and this will fall further when my wife retires from full time work at the end of **[removed for privacy reasons]**. I regard this as a very modest income by any standard. In practice, we are at the bottom end of the "comfortable" range, and any further erosion of our income will impact severely on our lifestyle.

Three basic points come from the general thrust of the above articles –

1. One would have thought that a Government of any persuasion would be keen for self-funded retirees to continue being just that – Self-funded!!! Instead, we find our lifestyle under attack. My wife and I have deliberately arranged our finances so that we can continue to look after ourselves financially, and thus be a minimal drain on the public purse in our sunset years. Now we find that the goal posts may be moved, much to our detriment.
2. If the rumoured attack on franking credits comes to fruition every superannuation fund in the country will be worse off, with a resultant loss of income for all pension fund recipients.
3. There seems to be a general perception, particularly in the Labour Party, that "self-funded retiree" equates with being "rich". As you can see from our circumstances, this is absolutely not the case.

I would be very interested to hear from you exactly what the Federal Government and Treasury plan to do with the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, and also with the existing dividend franking credit system.

Yours truly,

Jerry Hodges.
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