

AFTS Secretariat

My submission is based on a personal situation but it obviously would apply to other senior citizens in similar circumstances.

Regarding the recent Federal budget, there is precious little in it for the self funded retirees who must be saving the Federal Government millions of dollars by their self sufficiency in not having access to the Age Pension and its associated benefits.

However, there are several anomalies which should be addressed during your forthcoming taxation reform, namely:

I am an 87 year old self funded retiree receiving a UK superannuation which has been taxed at the 30 cent rate over the last 23 years, whereas the Australian superannuant over 65 years of age has now been given a tax free status on their superannuation income, which apart from its discriminatory aspects is not only illogical but unfair when evaluated against the amount of foreign currency which can be attributed to the Australian economy by the input of overseas superannuation funds.

Although I do receive an Undeducted Purchase Price concession on my UK pension I am not eligible for the 10% concessionary tax offset which applies to the public sector pensions, so I am again penalised. Furthermore, to make matters worse, I am not allowed to utilise the Undeducted Purchase Price of my UK pension to be included in the Age Pension income assessment test as is the case for the Australian superannuant, which is yet another anomaly which should be remedied.

After all is said and done, I am an Australian citizen and taxpayer who has contributed to the Australian economy for some considerable time, and I might add that although it is not of your making, my superannuation payments were not eligible for any tax relief during my working life in the UK. The only welfare benefit that I receive in Australia is the Federal Health Care Card, which I must admit is very helpful by providing me with subsidised medication but it cannot be considered to be on a par with the Age pension benefits.

I have every sympathy for the Australian Age pensioner, but the self funded retiree tends to be overlooked and assumed to have a bottomless source of income and in no need of any financial support, but above all, taking into account the above circumstances, at least an attempt should be made to remove the discriminatory aspects so that although I receive a foreign income I can still be regarded as an Australian citizen participating in a level playing field.

I hope that you give these facts can be given due consideration in your forthcoming revue.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Stoner