

Dear Sir/Ms,

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX THRESHOLD ON AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION PENSIONS FOR NON-RESIDENT AUSTRALIANS

At present, the superannuation pensions of Australian government employees and ex-defence force retirees who are non-resident Australians are fully taxed. There is NO tax threshold.

I would like to point out that, during their service to the Australian government, as well as paying personal income tax, Commonwealth Public Service Officers and Members of the Defence Force are required to contribute a percentage towards their respective superannuation schemes.

On retirement, if those former Commonwealth employees choose to live outside Australia they are classified as non-Resident Australians and their respective are fully taxed.

An Australian superannuation pensioner who chooses to live offshore ceases to have access to Medicare benefits and other benefits to which Australian-domiciled pensioners have access. They need to take out medical and health insurance cover at their own expense. In short, in that respect they are no longer a financial burden on the Australian government.

I am a retired Australian army officer who, because of injuries sustained while on active service, am now entitled to a Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Gold Card which would entitle me to full medical, dental and optical care but only if I lived in Australia. As a non-resident Australian I am only entitled to reimbursement of treatment of and medication for ONLY those DVA-recognized disabilities or injuries sustained while on active service.

I consider it quite unfair to fully tax the superannuation pensions of non-resident Australian citizens simply because they choose to spend their retirement abroad.

For the past 56 years I have been an Australian taxpayer (Taxation File # 479 - 877 - 091) and I remain an Australian taxpayer with my superannuation pension fully taxed. For 26 of those 56 years I contributed towards an Australian Defence Force Superannuation Pension (DFRDB Ref # A13668DF) as well as paying personal income tax.

As an Australian Defence Force Superannuation Pensioner with very limited financial support for outpatient treatment and/or medication, it is quite obvious that I am unfairly disadvantaged when compared with my Australian-domiciled peers and, in particular, with Australia's Social Security Pensioners.

I am of the opinion that the Australian government superannuation pension which any non-resident Australian receives should be tax free or at least have a tax threshold identical to that of Australian-domiciled superannuation pensioners who are able to take advantage of several other forms of financial and non-financial assistance as well.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Petersen