



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET DOES NOTHING FOR LOW-INCOME EARNERS

“Peter Costello’s series of election bribes, otherwise known as the Federal Budget, has left low-income earners in the lurch” said Mr Bob Jay, spokesperson for Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA).

“As Mark Latham said the Prime Minister has actually forgotten most of us in this Budget. Look at what was missed out:

- No tax breaks for low-income earners and no GST relief for people struggling on pensions;
- No increase in the pension rate – pensioners will still languish below the poverty line;
- Nothing for the 100,000 homeless in Australia – where’s the money for affordable housing?
- Nothing towards improving bulk billing rates. The surplus could have delivered a huge boost to Medicare.

And they could have done a lot better where they did spend money:

- Carers only got a one-off bonus. Why wasn’t their payment increased?
- Money for aged care wasn’t tied to improved outcomes. Providers could use the money for conferences instead of employing professional staff;
- New aged-care nursing places are all well and good. But if nurses’ conditions don’t improve they will leave nursing and we’re back to square one.

It’s obvious this Budget was used by Costello to make his government look good in the eyes of its well-heeled constituency. That’s why we saw higher income earners get tax relief and not pensioners.

“Well, Mr Costello, thanks to your GST, we are all taxpayers these days which has caused our incomes to be severely eroded over the last four years. You gave us all \$300 four years ago and it’s long gone. This budget is unfair.” said Mr Jay.

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