



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

30 September 2004

Media Release

Our Ref: GFE.004
IPA.500

WHAT'S YOUR AGENDA FOR PENSIONS, JOHN HOWARD?

“Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) is alarmed to hear about the possibility of the Australian Government cutting the value of pensions by creating a single workforce age payment to be indexed by prices (not the higher wage benchmark). If this is true we will condemn them in the strongest possible terms” said Mr Morrie Mifsud, CPSA State President.

“The proposal comes from a leaked cabinet document. We are hoping it isn't true. However, the Howard Government has a history of attacking pensioners and low-income earners.

“We have seen the implementation of the GST which has forced pensioners to pay tax for the first time – even though they have paid tax the whole of their working lives. And we can't forget the white-anting of Medicare, the underfunding of affordable housing and other programs that have gone by the wayside thanks to government penny-pinching.

“The Family and Community Services Minister Kay Patterson, when asked about possible cuts to pensions back in March, said 'I am not going to make predictions into 10 or 20 years ahead.'

“Well, Senator Patterson, did you really mean '10 or 20 weeks ahead'? And what are you saying now?

“This leaked document is frightening news and will cause terrible worry for Australian pensioners. We call on the Minister and Prime Minister to say categorically 'it isn't so' – and mean it” said Mr Mifsud.

Contact: Morrie Mifsud 02 9281 3588