



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ageing population misinformation

“The release of the Productivity Commission’s report on the economic implications of an ageing population has triggered off a barrage of misinformation,” said Morrie Mifsud, State President of Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA).

“Firstly we get Treasurer Costello who wrongly asserts that ‘we can’t afford to have all older Australians in aged care homes’. Costello, whose mind is always blinkered by costings, doesn’t realise that, according to ABS figures, only 6 per cent of older people live in aged care accommodation now. Many more are taken care of by families and friends whom his government has done precious little to help.

“Costello wants to increase workforce participation. This really means he wants to make people work for the Age Pension and up the qualification age to 70 or 75 years. How will that help people’s health and well-being? How is stressing people out who want to retire going to solve anything. Apart from the inhumanity, it is likely to further burden the health budget.

“And speaking of health, this current government has attacked Medicare, wasted money on private health insurance and uncapped doctors’ fees which has allowed the health budget to balloon. What a combination of hypocrisy and incompetence!

“Ageing population misinformation serves the Howard Government well. It is a way of alarming people in order to make budget cuts to social security more palatable. If that is the Commonwealth’s aim then, due to the growing number of older people, life may become less palatable for them” said Mr Mifsud.

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