



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931. Celebrating 75 years of service in 2006.

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

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Budget Surplus is our money and we want it spent on services

“Once again the Federal Treasurer Peter Costello is crowing about a record surplus and forgetting about where it came from. It came out of our pockets and it should be returned to fund services” said Morrie Mifsud, State President of Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA).

“We have seen basic services and programs eroded or cutback due to lack of funding. The Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement has been chronically underfunded over the last decade creating a crisis in public housing. The Commonwealth Dental Health Program was axed in 1997. Low-income people with dental problems now have to rely on underfunded state dental services with long waiting lists. There are also long waiting lists for people wanting to get into residential aged care. In fact, it is hard to think of any social service which has not had the Australian Government take an axe to it.

“There also needs to be spending on job creation – especially in regional areas where the unemployment rate is above the national average. And people on pensions should be getting a higher pension rate considering so-called compensation for the GST is completely inadequate.

“If there does have to be tax cuts then the tax rate on superannuation should be lowered to help people saving for their retirement. The tax rate on entry level jobs should also be eased to assist people getting into the workforce.

“But the bottom line, Peter Costello, is that this budget surplus is our ‘bottom line’ ie: our hard earned money you are taking credit for. So give it back to the community” said Mr Mifsud.

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