



## 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

---

---

1 September 2006

## **Pensioners hit harder by rising inflation**

“A Westpac report has confirmed what pensioners and low-income retirees have known all along. Inflation hits them harder than the rest of the community,” said Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association Policy Manager, Paul Versteegen.

“The report by Westpac and the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia says that in the first six months of 2006, inflation for pensioners was 4.3 per cent. Sydney-wide inflation was 3.8 per cent and the national increase was 4 per cent.

“Pensioners spend more on items that go up more, such as prescription drugs and transport.

“The report refers to a “modest” retirement income as \$25,603. A couple on the Age Pension get \$21,694.

“Pensioners get a very low cash payment and a host of other benefits and concessions, administered in a completely uncoordinated fashion by every level of government imaginable.”

“Most of the federal benefits are subject to indexation, but it’s open slather when it comes to NSW concessions.

“The NSW Government introduced a pensioner booking fee on CountryLink travel, which adds \$30 to the cost of a typical return trip. This was done without any regard to the effect on pensioners’ purchasing power.

“The price of a pensioner excursion ticket on buses and trains went up from \$1.10 to \$2.50 in one hit a year ago.

“CPSA calls for Federal, State and Local Governments to ensure changes to pensioner concessions do not attack the standard of living of low-income retirees.”

ENDS

Media inquiries  
0410 612 182  
02 9281 3588