

Good afternoon

Could you also do a review into the low superannuation savings of people in regional Australia compared to major capital cities?

Our family moved from Sydney to Albury 10 years ago. My wage in Sydney was over 50% higher than my wage after I moved. That's a huge drop in superannuation guarantee each month. Conceptually the drop in wages reflects lower house prices, so if we'd stayed in Sydney we'd have ended up paying off a house at a similar age. The flow on effect to lower super though is a significant disadvantage to people living in regional Australia.

Costs in retirement are comparable for people whether they live in capital cities or regional centres. It costs the same for any holiday, domestic or overseas, groceries are similar as are utilities. Health costs can be higher for people in regional locations if we need to head to a capital city to see a specialist or to benefit from new technologies.

As a family we're affected by choices of my wife having 6 years off work while our kids were young and from moving to regional Australia. The retirement costs for us of moving will far outweigh the loss of retirement savings from my wife taking time off work and now being happy with part time work and a lower salary.

If my wife could have her retirement super somehow topped up to counter her time off work and now part time work or to counter lower wages in regional Australia she'd be far more interested in the lower wages part being addressed as it makes a far bigger impact. It's a significant 'equal pay for equal work' issue.

An additional cost of the lower retirement savings is it acts as a disincentive for people to leave capital cities. While Governments are encouraging people to leave capital cities, the lower wage and lower superannuation which follows were the 2 biggest arguments we had for staying in Sydney.

At a different level, while lower retirement savings for women seems generally caused by taking time out of the workforce to raise kids, its actually a primary caregiver effect. A stay at home dad has the same loss of retirement savings from being out of the workforce and/or working less hours.

thanks

Campbell Simpson