

We request that the Joint Standing Committee on External Territories give consideration to eliminating the unjust discrimination of the present governance set-up which prevents us from living in our own home on Norfolk Island, on land which was granted by Queen Victoria to Katherine's ancestors upon arrival from Pitcairn.

Katherine was born and raised on Norfolk Island but went to the mainland for employment and both of us worked and paid income tax in Australia for most of our working lives. Now in retirement we are grateful to be receiving the Old Age Pension and the help of Medicare and the PBS.

However the lack of the assistance of Medicare and the PBS in that part of Australia called Norfolk Island prevents us from living in our own home. It is hard to see how this can be justified because obviously it would not cost the Commonwealth any more to give us this assistance on Norfolk Island than it does to provide that help to us on the mainland.

We feel that if allowed to live in our own home on Norfolk Island we would be able to once-again contribute usefully to the community there and help make it a better part of Australia. As far as we are concerned, Norfolk Island is the very best part of Australia; and we know that Australia is the best country in the whole world.

The point we are trying to make is that all Australian Old Age Pensioners living on Norfolk Island should be entitled to the assistance of Medicare and the PBS.

Yours sincerely,
Katherine Adams-Friend & Ernie Friend