

6 July 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern

Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs on the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending Carbon Tax Compensation) Bill 2017

The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (SCOA Australia) is an apolitical, non-profit national retiree organisation, established in 1923. Most of our members are retirees under the CSS or PSS defined benefit schemes, and most of them will eventually have to rely on a part Age Pension to make ends meet, due to the inadequate CPI indexation of their CSS and PSS pensions.

The proposed removal of the Energy Supplement for new welfare recipients from 20 September 2017 would mean that their Age Pension would be \$14 per fortnight, or \$365 a year, less than that of those already receiving the Age Pension. From 1 July this year, ACT electricity bills will increase by 18.95%, or about \$333 per year for a typical household, while ACT residential natural gas bills will increase by 17.3% or \$247 per year on average. Origin Energy has made similar price increases for electricity in South Australia and New South Wales.

SCOA Australia opposes this legislation because the prices of gas and electricity are now higher than they were before the carbon tax legislation was repealed, and other living costs have increased. This measure would cause unnecessary hardship for elderly people with little or no ability to earn extra money to support themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Annette Barbetti
PRESIDENT



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