

Our ref: FPA – N/HW

The Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

***RE: Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) and Other Legislation  
Amendment Bill 2012 inquiry***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry.

At the outset, I commend the Remuneration Tribunal for their extensive review into politicians' pay and entitlements. The process of consulting with Members of Parliament has been welcomed in order to better inform the Tribunal.

However, I believe that there should also be a requirement for the Tribunal to hold public consultation. Ideally, this would include calling for submissions from members of the public and key stakeholders (including MPs, unions, employer groups and other interested parties). In addition, the Tribunal should also hold at least a one-day public hearing in Canberra to take evidence from these groups.

I also recommend that the Government consider introducing specific transparency requirements for the Tribunal, including release of information to the public.

I intend to introduce an amendment to the bill in the Senate to require these steps.

Should the committee require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**NICK XENOPHON**

/ /2012