
Committee Secretariat
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Sir,

I was a Recruit Naval Airman Pilot in the RAAF Flying Training School, Point Cook when, in 1948, the RAN introduced this new "superannuation" system. Our then Senior Naval Officer was a Royal Navy pilot on loan to the RAN. He had been an insurance salesman in civilian life. Instead of supporting the plan, as he was obliged to do, he described it alternatively as the "McMahon Robbery Act" or the "Chifley Robbery Act".

Furthermore, we still had to buy our own expensive flying insurance. Our Recruit Ordinary Seaman equivalent measly pay was reduced even more to help finance this new superannuation.

Some 25 years later, in March 1973, I retired from the RAN as a Lieutenant Commander, believing commuting would reduce my pension for only a few years. So I commuted my pension to gain a NSW University B.A. Then, winning a USA scholarship, my late wife, nee Geraldine Kirshenbaum ex Times-Life New York Sports Editor, supported me for a PhD in Clinical Psychology in the State University of New York, Stony Brook.

Now, at age 95 and 52 years after retiring from both the RAN and all work, I hold a DVA gold card but I am not as healthy as I used to be and I am finding it extremely difficult to manage the medical disorders I contracted in the RAN and financially.

Yours faithfully,
Fred Lane