

We've saved for retirement outside of the superannuation system. (Due to my having a heart attack aged 45 and therefore not knowing when I'd need my savings, or if indeed I would live to retirement age.) I have been financially penalised for taking this responsible approach to self funding my retirement.

Now, with the stock market having all but wiped out or remaining shares and having spent most of our savings simply to live, my wife and I find ourselves needing financial assistance. I've been **officially** told that we would have to dispose of all of our remaining (currently unsaleable) assets in order to qualify for the kind of breaks enjoyed by those who have made absolutely no attempt to provide for their own future.

If our assets were sheltered within the superannuation system they would be exempt from the asset test and I would be given assistance.

Our remaining assets ARE our retirement. We're not talking millions here. (Approx \$250K).

To sell them at this depressed time would be financial suicide which would ensure the tax payers would have to look after us until death.

Where's the equity in this?

(I'm about to turn 60. I still work whenever I can. My wife is 67.)