

To whom it may concern,

There are many ways of raising revenue and taxation is one. The current and previous governments have thought it prudent get rid of most streams of revenue that are not types of taxation. They seem to have spent the proceeds on recurrent type spending, in other words there is little to show for all the liquidated assets. Now we are falling on harder times and there is little for the commonwealth government to sell so it is encouraging State governments to sell their assets and looking at increasing taxes and making more users pay. The facts are that there has been a tremendous selling of Australia to overseas investors and the so called *FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS* have resulted in a great many work opportunities and profits going overseas.

What I suggest is that government look at how income is distributed, report it to the nation and ask the question, what sort of nation do we want? I do not think we should measure everything in GDP, economic terms, or dollars and cents. Rather what will make us happy? Will making the very rich a little richer help anyone?

I understand that if one supports a type then one is in fact encouraging its growth, e.g. the disability support pension, single parent support pension, and that it is very difficult to prevent support becoming encouragement. I understand that some think that women participating in the paid workforce is desirable, but what about women being encouraged to choose their own way e.g. stay at home mothering instead of discouraging it and giving mothers who do not stay at home financial support as promised in the last commonwealth budget. What does common and wealth mean when used as a single word before government? I think that it is fairly common for women to want to raise their own children and research shows that it is superior childcare. Why not support stay at home mothers with children, to the same extent as mothers using childcare facilities through the tax system, having in mind that the money the government spends is the other side of the tax coin.

The rich have got richer and the middle class has shrunk and the poor have grown in number under the policies of successive governments. They seemed claimed and claim that the markets will bring all good things if only left to do what they do. Deregulate, free trade, level playing field are the catch-cry, but I remember the late Kerry Packer saying to a government committee that even in that most competitive of sports, boxing one does not put Jeff Fenech up against Mike Tyson. We need to have our government defending us and our interests against market players who are too big or powerful. Markets and their players seek their own enrichment and not typically the commonwealth of Australia. The taxation system is a means of protecting and fostering our interests.

Increasing the GST is not a clever thing to do, it will more dramatically affect the poor and those on fixed incomes, and ten percent is a figure that most people do not resent paying, any more and people will seek to avoid it, tithing has a long history.

Please, in reviewing taxation have a deeper look at what you are seeking to achieve for the Australian people. If you make looking after our needs and protecting us from those who would harm us through greedy self-seeking behaviour, and or serving other countries interests, your goal in this discussion you will be serving the commonwealth. But if you continue on the path your past two budgets indicate, a preferential option for the rich, you will continue to cause deep dissatisfaction with the majority of Australians.

What we want is fair and if you have a will to achieve fair you will succeed, but you will have to change your attitude, or the only reason you'll get re-elected is the previous government wore out their welcome a bit more than just one election cycle.

You have access to much in the way of expert advice therefore I refrain from spelling out specifics and besides all we ever seem to get is your message reframed as though what we little people think and suggest is unworthy or not able to be more than rejected as the circumstances are far too complex, or you simply have another agenda.

