

Trish Southorn



8th February 2018

To the Treasury Dept Re early release of superannuation.,

I was diagnosed with my 2nd brain tumour which is growing on the brain stem in October 2015, it was picked up on MRI because of neck damage from a rear end collision whilst stationary and I requested the MRI because of the pain etc.

I am consulting with Mr George Wong on the growth rate, "it is a slow growing tumour" but personally I believe 6 mm on the brain stem in 12 months is significant growth as I had a routine MRI the year before the accident which was all clear, the surgeons say it is not related to the motor vehicle. ICWA have engaged lawyers to fight my claim stating my injuries were pre-existing, probably from the surgery to my upper neck on removal of my first tumour in 1997, I recovered fully after 5 years and was playing netball and any other activity I chose with no issues.

I rang my superannuation and asked about early release and I was told that I had to be terminal and 3 doctors had to complete a form stating I was terminal, I don't know 3 doctors. I would lose approximately half my super if I withdraw it without the letters.

The problem is the brain stem likes its' space and anything growing along that part of the brain will cause issues and eventually death. I was told back in 1997 when I was 37 that I probably wouldn't survive this surgery and advised to put my affairs in order, if I did survive I might have a stroke on the table or be paralysed. Fortunately, I recovered but I had a big fight on my hands with things like phantom pain, no taste, no control of eye movement, couldn't comprehend the English language, in a wheelchair, lack of balance, no period for a year etc.

So now at 58 I now for sure I couldn't possibly cope with that surgery again, the doctor advised the treatment is still the same, just monitoring growth. I am about to go for my 3rd MRI in March 2018 which I know the tumour will have grown again, no one knows when the tumour will stop the flow of spinal fluid and thus causing severe life threatening problems,

it is my choice not to go through that horrific surgery again, and I would like to be able to withdraw my superannuation without penalties and do with it how I see fit.

I did notice something on your page about victims of crime. I have worked for many years and was attacked by two men in March 2008 where I was robbed with a 12inch fishing knife to my throat. Police were called but I didn't know anything about victims of crime compensation, I would say 10 years ago is too long to make a claim but anyway my GP did say he thought the tumour returned from stress as they say it wasn't the motor vehicle accident that caused it.

Anyway, regardless of any of the things I have mentioned, I would love to be able to withdraw my superannuation without penalties and having to go through all the forms and different doctors stating I am terminal, I don't want them saying that when the tumour has grown too big for me to enjoy a few things with my grandchildren for example.

You can contact me should you need any additional information.

Regards

Trish Southorn