

Does Australia treat its elderly well? Compared to other nations the answer is a resounding "No"! The attitudes of our people need to change and an understanding established as to why people retire. Retirement signals realistically, the beginning of the end of life phase, where elderly notice a gradual reduction in physical and mental ability. This is not recognised by society as some of life's biggest decisions are required to be made as our brains deteriorate thus causing incredible stress to our elderly. Is this a good way to treat our seniors who have worked hard and contributed well to the well being of our Australian society? End of life should be easy and comfortable at this stage of life. Instead banks and Governments are creating the most complex situations in all walks of life particularly health and finance, where the elderly become confused, worried and most of all feel let down and rejected by our non thinking, non compassionate society. Shame!

- Big things are going on in AIR, the Association for Independent Retirees.
- The current Government, in all their wisdom, have just asked for submissions on the "Retirees Income Review". All submissions have to be in by 3rd February, 2020.
- Is this an attempt to 'slip' it in under the radar?
- Typically, as very few submissions will go in over the holiday period, most people will be unaware of it.
- Government is saying the one, biggest spend in anybody's life is their family house.
- Wrong. Wrong. Wrong!!!!
- It is the small room we buy in a nursing home at the **end** of our life that is the biggest cost and most difficult to accomplish. That little piece of real estate is such a big worry for the elderly and is also a huge worry for the family. At that stage of our life, at our most vulnerable, our government is happy to cause extreme mental and financial stress to the elderly. What a way to treat the elder people who have worked so hard, paying taxes and contributing to society in many ways.
- What - a - farce!!!!
- The cost of a family home is usually divided by two people and most retirees today would not have spent over \$600k on their homes.
- Sydney and Melbourne nursing home rooms are up in the millions to buy!
- The RAD (Refundable Accommodation Deposit), previously known as a Bond, is no more than a real estate transaction to acquire a room in a nursing home. The three daily fees pay for the nursing, food, care and activities and can be over \$200 a day (yes a day!), depending on how much money one has in assets when entering this new real estate situation. It's \$52 plus \$25 per day for those on the pension. This extreme difference is discriminatory against individual who have diligently worked and carefully contributed to super and investments throughout their working lives.
- It easy to be jaded by the government's persistent attack on the nest egg of all seniors. The moral of the story is, 'Don't work those extra few years before one retires'. It will all disappear in taxes!
- Is this what our wonderful government wants????
- All nursing homes come under the 2015 My Gov Rules but most nursing homes are regarded as Private .

- The Government in its wisdom, is funnelling all this “ Real Estate “ RAD money into private hands who are in turn building new Real Estate Nursing homes with this “ loan money “. There is no cost to the Government. The RAD is fully refunded with no interest paid , when a death certificate is produced. There is a minimum of six weeks usually before the death certificate is cleared, thus extending the so called ‘loan’ time to the company .
- What an ethical idea!
- So! The nursing home industry is not focussed on the business of providing high class care and comfort, for those in their sunset years of their lives.
- It is, in actual fact, one big **real estate** scam!!
- Hence government achieves kudos for ‘putting bums in beds’ under the pretext of sensitive, supportive facilities for those who have contributed to the foundation of the wealth of our country.
- Nursing home providers, have used the assets of their clients to further increase **their** assets in new complexes. According to current reports, conditions are not up to scratch and not, in any real way, close to being nurturing, caring places for our aged to complete their cycle of Life.
- Will they be allowed to get away with it!