

In Peter Van Onselen's column (Australian 16/17 Nov) I think that there is something else he should have mentioned.

If a government is going to raise a tax on retired Baby Boomers, then it should pick on the considerably greater number who are getting by on a lesser amount than \$200k P.A. I think that they could raise much more money by doing that.

My wife and I (retired Baby Boomers) get \$58.5k P.A. I suppose we could find ways to get by on less than this, if we really applied ourselves, but the inexorable rise of prices at a rate well above the C.P.I. over the last 5 years is dismaying to us.

Despite the difficulty, we still pay \$323.95 per month for Hospital Cover and \$85.96 per month for Extras Cover, although the Gaps seem to be ever increasing, as they reduce their coverage and and increase their Premiums at a rate well in excess of the C.P.I. every year.

My late father ceased to pay for Hospital Cover, because he just could not afford it, and had to make that hard choice, a choice which I think many middle class commentators in their Ivory Towers do not have to make.

He fell over at age 81, and died a year later, not being able to scrape up the money for a timely Coronary Artery Graft (5), without leaving himself and my mother destitute.

I worked and paid taxes for 45 years, brought up 3 sons, never got a baby bonus, never got a first home buyers bonus, contributed to Superannuation at the maximum allowable rate for about 25 years, plus some meagre rollovers from previous jobs, so I have done the yards.

This is why Prof. Peter van Onselen and other Ivory Towered commentators are really starting to get up my nose. This is the problem which is occurring in America, of privileged elites prescribing hard medicine for everyone except themselves.

As I said above, you will not raise much tax if you only work on people getting \$200k P.A. tax free and above.

Since I was an Electronics Technician for 45 years, I have a plethora of useful skills, and I put them to use at home, never paying any one \$40 or \$50 per hour for something that I could do myself in the yard, garage, house, or on my 20 year old Commodore.

One of the problems with my sort of activities is the gargantuan amount of rules and regulations ranged against me from Local Government, State Government, and Federal Government.

When I started my retirement I told my Superannuation Advisor that we would take just \$2k per month (currently 6.07% of the value), and that I did not want it indexed, because I felt that the the amount that I had gathered was a bit small.

After trying to put away as much Superannuation as the Constantly Changing Rules would allow me, my wife and I still each get a part Aged Pension which is only \$40 or \$50 P.F. short of the Full Aged Pension.

And now, Frydenburg, in his soft hands job, with his soft hands mates in Cabinet, is telling me that I am a bludger, and I should have kept working much longer, retired much later, and dropped dead 5 years into retirement.

These people are well out of touch with average Australians.

As regards our house, we paid for that , and we like living here , and do not want to be punished for working hard to get to this situation. We did not get married until we were both 30, and started out in my bed sitter at Waverley, Sydney. By a series of moves, we ended up where we are now, 38 years later, where we want to be.

Do any of the 30 somethings and 40 somethings want to start out in a humble dwelling? Do they want to drive an old car? Or is it a 2 Storey McMansion first up and a new car for each of them every 5 years?

In my early working life I frequently heard from people that lump sums acquired on retirement should be spent quickly, on new cars, house improvements, overseas holidays, et cetera.

I did not agree then with these ideas, even though these people said that it was their money, so why couldn't they spend it?

Lately, now that the unadorned greed of the Superannuation Industry has been exposed, I am beginning to think that the old timers were right, and I was inexperienced and wrong. I have been retired 5 years and StatePlus have so far taken \$30k in fees, which is 7% of the current value.

I have complained to them that I cannot see what I am getting for these fees, but they have recently rebutted me, saying that their services are just that valuable.

I used to live in Heathcote, Sydney (which I believe is in the P.M.s electorate) and in those days (as a teenager) this was at the end of civilisation, and a solid Labor area. Now, how it has changed, into a Blue Ribbon Liberal electorate.

I would really love my message to get to the P.M.