

**REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION (DUST DISEASES) BOARD**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 13/01/2014

Partially Confidential

The Director

Standing Committee on Law and Justice

Dear Members

I am currently and have been for the past 18 years receiving compensation payments from the Dust Diseases Board, where I have been monitored for asbestos exposure and have been determined to be 20% affected. I have been lucky that it is stable and the Doctor informed me he was confident it could stay that way unless I received a major trauma which could mobilise the disease.

I do not wish to seem ungrateful and appreciate the fortnightly payments, however I really have not had a chance to bolster my retirement funds over the years and now have depleted them.

My request to the committee is that now I have reached 75 years of age the way my payments are treated by Centrelink preclude me from the Age Pension and thus the ancillary benefits of same. which would allow my wife and I to live our twilight years comfortably.

Whether it is within the guidelines of the committee to consider that such compensation payments to affected people from the age of 70 years could be renamed to allow them to be more generously considered by Centrelink and such allow a small age pension to be received by the victims of the disease. I submit that people carrying this disease would have difficulty obtaining employment , but after the age of 70 ,I would suggest, have little hope.

I am aware that the pension from centrelink is a federal matter. However the Dust Diseased Board comes under the State and I am suggesting that after the age of 70 the payments could be described as a pension which would assist victims in my position. I would also request that the matter be handled confidentially.

Yours faithfully