

Saturday, 2011-January-01  
**The State of the Nation**

**FOREWORD:** 110 years ago, on and after January 1, 1901 the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* proclaimed that the people of the Colonies (which were then to become States) should be united in a Federal Commonwealth under the name of the Commonwealth of Australia.

**Introduction**

World population growth is reaching an unsustainable level. While countries grapple with economics to manage the increase in population size – but none have systems to control the growth itself

Economic principles may have served mankind during eras of populate or perish – but where growth is not infinite, and where economics = growth at any cost, growth is unsustainable. As a means of sustainability to an overcrowded planet – it is a disaster waiting to happen.

One of the first victims of an unsustainable economic system is the elderly – wherein they become a burden to carry when their productivity capacity is overtaken by more virile younger persons.

What to do with the elderly is one of mankind's greatest ghosts – set to haunt every younger generation. It is said that primitive hunter-gatherer-nomads would simply leave the elderly by the wayside when their pace dropped to a level that could not keep pace with the pack, when they could not earn their food.

Has anything changed? Do we kid ourselves that we are anything but primitive? What is the ideal status? Are we still not hunter-gatherers – only the methods have changed? Aren't we still leaving our elders by the wayside when their pace becomes slower than the pace of the pack?

Isn't economics just an excuse, and an alternative word, semantics, for personal greed? So, by what nobleness of mind does Australia honour its Senior Citizens?

**The short answer is: "By enslavement" as the following evidence shows:**

**1. Federal Government enslavement of Senior Citizens**

In recognition of the above scenario, in 1944, a plan was enacted to create "The National Welfare Fund". This was the forerunner of what nowadays is called a "Superannation Fund". By 1950, the NWF was reported to be 100-million-pounds. In 1975, the NWF was reported to be \$470-million.

At this time, it was misappropriated by the then government into Consolidated Revenue – a term used for money used by government for its general accounting purposes.

While politicians now award themselves hundreds-of-thousands-of-dollars in pay, perks, and retirement benefits – but pension income is a desultory \$28,069.60 per couple – that is, \$14,034.80 per person/per year. Such an amount is barely enough to provide food and a minimum life-saving existence.

**Thereby: Senior Citizens are "enslaved" by charitable government hand-outs!**

**2. State Government (Queensland) enslavement of Senior Citizens**

As population growth created a land and housing shortage, the Queensland government sought respite by inducing its Senior Citizens to leave their larger family homes, and move into downsized smaller homes, thereby freeing-up housing for the younger more economically-active generations.

This seemingly noble gesture had merit for its Senior Citizens in that the smaller downsized homes were more readily maintainable by them. But, rather than refer to the land by the conventional name "residential subdivision" it was called a "Park", and the "Homes-plus-Park" were seductively/deceptively titled "Resort". Notwithstanding these title changes, the scheme was tainted to the detriment of Senior Citizens by:

- Enacting specialized legislation designed to strip home purchasers of their constitutional rights;
- By replacing their democratic entitlements by authoritarian rulers, likened to ghetto wardens;
- By denying them such statutory rights as: right of ingress/egress to/from their homes; re-sale rights compatible with suburban homes; denial of Fair Trading laws; denial of restrictive trade practice entitlements, shrouding a communication barrier through which their pleas could not be heard, etc;
- Denial of the practices and services to which they had been accustomed in suburbia, like, access to Local Government and its services; ombudsman services, choice of utility service provider, etc.

**Thereby, Senior Citizens are "enslaved" by discriminatory segregation practices!**

### **3. Federal/State Conflict for enslavement of Senior Citizens**

#### **Example A:**

**A-1:** The Federal Government, under Section 51 (xxiii) of the Australian Constitution is empowered to be solely responsible for “invalid and old-age pensions”;

**A-2:** The Queensland State government has enacted legislation that both allows and encourages extraneous amounts of money to be extracted from Senior Citizen Home Owners under the scheme (2) above;

**A-3:** Federal and State governments are thereby at loggerheads over the welfare of its Senior Citizens without any coordination by either of them, or either one taking responsibility for, these opposing factors.

#### **Example B:**

**B-1:** The Federal Financial Regulator says: “Beware of any organization that pressures you into giving them a direct debit authority”, and “Have they offered you any alternative methods of payment”;

**B-2:** The Queensland Office of Fair Trading issue and enforce contracts in contradiction of this notice;

**B-3:** The logical truth of these opposites is surely: The Federal Financial Regulator is effectively saying: “Beware of the Queensland Office of Fair Trading”, and thereby also the “Legislative Assembly”.

**Thereby, Senior Citizens are “enslaved” by political buck-passing and partisan grandstanding!**

### **4. Federal/State Hypocrisy towards enslavement of Senior Citizens**

One ‘Eureka-type’ solution proposed by government to an aging population is: “Increase the retirement age so that there are fewer of them to pay by pension funds”. People are thus kept in the workforce for a longer length of time, and private enterprise employers must foot the bill for their income.

But, what governments fail to recognize is that, after retirement, many retirees are an un-paid (slave) work force. Examples include:

- Grandparents become un-paid child-minding-centres for working parents;
- Many Seniors do un-paid charity work: meals-on-wheels; op-shops; migrant language teachers, etc;
- Many Seniors obtain lower status employment, but feel robbed by subsequent pension deductions;
- Seniors (like this one) have spent many years study, research, and writing on these matters without receiving so much as a brass-razoo – tasks undertaken because politicians and their ilk haven’t a blue-clue about the issues, about the relevant laws, nor how to handle either the issues or the laws.
- Accounts submitted for these tasks are ignored, but governments will readily pay \$millions to their connected-Consultants for useless advice, from people who have never even talked to any Seniors.

**Thereby, Senior Citizens are “enslaved” by smug, uppity, bureaucratic upstarts.**

### **5. Federal/State Appeals against enslavement of Senior Citizens**

5.1 Federal government has Ministerial portfolios for Seniors, but these concentrate on ‘Aged-Care’ which is a specialized Senior segment for those Seniors who need direct supervision. There is scant, if any, recognition of Seniors needs in the Over-50’s to Aged-Care segment, who are (for the most part) self-supporting.

5.2 Queensland State Government has established a Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). There can be no better way to describe this process than to provide what is considered to be a typical example – as appended to this paper.

It relates the story of how what should have been a simple over-the-counter accounting transaction, of which the writer must have handled thousands in his business career, became an over 18-months saga by a myriad of Government bureaucratic buck-passing kangaroo-leaps.

**Thereby, Senior Citizens are “enslaved” by isolation from their democratic entitlements.**

#### **In Summary:**

Our Founding-Fathers had the VISION to implement an Australian-Federation-with-a-Democratic-Christian-Monarchial-Constitution on which to build this proud Nation.

Our modern-day floundering-philistines have not only lost sight of the plot, but have seemingly scarpered with the proceeds.

**What are your accomplishments to rehabilitate our Australian Common-Wealth?**

## Appendix to Paper “The State of the Nation”

### **Background**

A colleague was replying to some correspondence and wished to include some examples of the time taken by various cases put to QCAT. When he asked for my experience, this was my reply.

The matter had initially arisen when our electricity supply merchant billed us, in one month, for seven times the amount due. The utility service provider became obstreperous, and refused to discuss the matter, refused to meet face-to-face, or to provide qualified accounting personnel who could negotiate the problem.

Dear .....

The direct answer to your question is:

QCAT Registry Filing Date = 17 June 2010. This was followed by:

Directions hearing = 12 August 2010 (8 weeks);  
Compulsory Conference = 8 September 2010 (4 weeks = 12 Weeks elapsed time);  
Directions hearing = 20 October 2010 (6 weeks = 18 weeks elapsed time);  
Hearing = 7 December 2010 (7 weeks = 25 weeks elapsed time).

But there are other significant points about this, namely:

#### 1. **The events preceding the QCAT application**

- The incident which provoked this occurred in May/June 2009 (12 months previously);
- I had already asked the Department of Communities for help, they advised to go to the police;
- Communities then advised to put in a complaint to OFT;
- OFT referred the complaint file to the Energy Ombudsman;
- Ombudsman then referred complaint file to DEEDI;
- To this date, DEEDI have never, ever responded to this complaint file;
- PO issued an OFT FORM 6 for “Breach of Contract”.

#### 2. **QCAT ability** “to deal with matters in a way that is accessible, fair, just, economical, informal and quick”

- The person referred to in the above is an octogenarian;
- It is proven that about 70% of people are widows, without the moral fibre to tackle these events;
- About 95% of people are in 60 to 90 years age group, who cannot tackle these processes.

#### 3. **“Parties** who are dissatisfied with a decision of QCAT may **have an avenue of appeal**”

- QCAT stated that it would only decide on one of the many issues submitted, leaving much undone;
- Why should people have to appeal due to QCAT inability to do the job properly in the first place?
- Only a person of infantile and immature mind could invent such a system for Senior Citizens;
- Only a person of criminal intent could put Senior Citizens through such an inquisitorial system!
- Ministers and MP’s contacted proved to be either ignorant or sadistic in their empathy of these facts.

#### 4. **The Consequence** of this matter can be summarized by:

- The Federal Financial Regulator says: “Beware of any organization that pressures you into giving them a direct debit authority”, and “Have they offered you any alternative methods of payment”.
- The Queensland Office of Fair Trading issue and enforce contracts in contradiction of this notice.
- The logical conclusion to be derived is: The Federal Financial Regulator is effectively saying: “Beware of the Queensland Office of Fair Trading” and by association “The Attorney General”.

Now, if that can be rated as being “accessible, fair, just, economical, informal and quick” then I can only quote from Rudyard Kipling: “*By the livin’ Gawd that made you, You’re a better man than I am, Gunga Din!*”

I am happy to be quoted/copied/attached on this, and to meet any person “face-to-face” who will commit to debate and minute such meeting. Truly Wilf.R Thursday, 2010-12-23

*Wilf Robinson is the author of “Downsized in Paradise” - the definitive book on Community Lifestyle Retirement. It is available through all good book stores. Publication reference No: ISBN 978-1-921406-91-1. On-line purchase from [www.zeus-publications.com](http://www.zeus-publications.com) or [sales@zeus-publications.com](mailto:sales@zeus-publications.com)*