Dear

I write to tell you it’s time to roll up your sleeves and do what you were elected to do: represent me.

I am one of hundreds of thousands of retired civilian Commonwealth public servants who receive a defined benefit superannuation pension to which I and my employer contributed during my career, partly from my after tax income, I might add. My pension is indexed by the CPI. We were told that this would ensure that we would maintain a decent standard of living in retirement.

This is not the case. Quite the contrary. It is becoming increasingly clear that the CPI bears no relation to the real cost of living increases, although governments all over the world use it because it makes them appear to be good managers of the economy. They keep the inflation under control, we are told. As the graph on the reverse page shows, the value of my pension has been eroded substantially, resulting in a continuous decreasing standard of living.

I have been a member of SCOA Australia (formerly the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association) for many years, supporting the organisation’s quest to obtain a fairer indexation method of our pensions. Unfortunately, not only have subsequent governments ignored SCOA’s requests for fairness as well as the recommendations of three Senate inquiries; life has been made harder by the introduction of recent legislation, for example the cap on income that can be exempt from the income test for the age pension which means that many pensioners on modest incomes are no longer able to receive even a small part age pension as a top up.

We have never asked for special treatment; all we have ever asked for is to be treated fairly.

Why is my pension indexed differently from the age pension or some military pensions for example? We are all senior Australians; we all contributed to the development of this land, why are we being discriminated against in our retirement?

Please let me know what you will do about this issue to get my vote in the upcoming election.

