



**SA Superannuants** Established 1927

Unite - Protect - Represent

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[www.sasuperannuants.org.au](http://www.sasuperannuants.org.au)

Mr Peter Illidge,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Illidge,

I write to thank you on behalf of South Australian Superannuants for your cheque of \$13,069.32 as part of the distribution from the liquidators of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Inc (SCOA). This money was formally received and minuted at our Executive Committee meeting of 14 April 2020. Our general membership will be informed of this through our May newsletter, The Superannuant, and publication of this correspondence on our website [www.sasuperannuants.org.au](http://www.sasuperannuants.org.au).

Since your organisation (SCOA) ceased business we (SA Superannuants) have amended our constitution to allow former SCOA members, indeed any member of the Commonwealth's schemes, PSS and CSS, to be eligible to join our Association. To date 231 of your former members have joined and three of them have taken up committee positions - James Vandenberg, Vice President, Brenton Pain, Secretary and Alan Raftery, convenor of the QANTAS Club.

Our Association is well aware of SCOA's work over many years and its special efforts in respect of the erosion of superannuation benefits through the Commonwealth Government's insistence on using the CPI to reflect movements in the cost of living. The CPI was never a fair measure of the cost of living and there remains the need for the development of a new and more accurate measure by the Bureau of Statistics. We are also aware of SCOA's

concern that when the income streams from superannuation funds became tax free, the Commonwealth defined benefit pensions remained taxed. These two Commonwealth policy positions apply also to the State's pension fund in South Australia. These are two of a number of common interests that we believe exist between retired Commonwealth and State public servants that caused our Association to make the constitutional changes that I mention above.

We have long been members of ACPSRO and John Coleman is well known to us. We are in regular contact with the ACPSRO committee.

Thank you again for your generosity and good wishes. We in turn wish you well in your continued retirement and assure you that your gift will be used in matters consistent with the former SCOA's objectives.

Yours sincerely

  
Peter Fleming

*20 April 2020*

President

Peter Illidge  
Ex-President  
SCOA AUSTRALIA INC.

17 March 2020

Mr Peter Flemming  
President  
SA Superannuants  
GPO Box 2036  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Flemming

Shortly you will be receiving a distribution from the liquidators of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association Inc (SCOA) which, after 96 years of advocating for the interests of retired Commonwealth superannuants under the various Commonwealth superannuation schemes, closed its doors on 30 June 2019.

I thought as the ex-President of SCOA, I had a final responsibility to outline why your organisation was chosen to participate in the final distribution of SCOA's carefully husbanded reserves.

Your organisation was seen by SCOA's National Committee as influential in promoting the interest of all pensioners and retirees to Government and like organisations formulating retiree policy in Australia. In particular you were in a position to promote the two main planks of SCOA's advocacy, the unfair taxation of PSS and CSS pensioners and the fact that their defined benefit pensions have been eroded over many years because the CPI does not reflect movements in the cost of living. SCOA long advocated the unfairness that when Income streams from superannuation funds became tax free, Commonwealth defined benefit pensions remained taxed.

SCOA also argued consistently that the CPI was not a measure of the cost of living and that a new index which better reflects movements in the cost of living should be developed by the Bureau of Statistics.

SCOA of course cannot now dictate how your organisation will use the funds. However, we do ask that if the opportunity arises in you approaches to government, perhaps through the mechanism of a Pre-Budget submission or a submission to a relevant enquiry, that these two issues are raised in some way in any submission you may make. In this way the Government of the day will be reminded of the inequity of their policies to date on approximately 300,000 ex Commonwealth employees, many of whom receive a pension considerably less than the aged pension.

ACPSRO are an organisation that will almost exclusively be pursuing these two issues and will be promoting them to the Government of the day. They would be a useful source of information on these two issues should you need further information. ACPSRO's President, John Coleman, can be contacted by mobile [REDACTED]

We wish you well in your future activities.

Yours sincerely

Peter Illidge

