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As representative for both organizations, who resent the Direct Deduction policy, as applied by Work and Income New Zealand.

The A O W Lobby Club, mainly for persons, with a right to a Netherlands A O W pension.

Multi-National Superannuation Council, represent all Nationals who derive a pension, or part pension from an overseas pension scheme.

I like to express many thanks to the Human Rights Commission, and the Chief Commissioner Rosslyn Noonan for this report to be done. And a thank you to Dr Claire Dale and her team for their excellent work, compiling 'Working Paper 2009-2.

When I spoke in 2002 to the chief Commissioner, she was not informed, about the frustration pensioners were facing with a right to a part overseas pension. The chief commissioner's advice was to write to Human Rights Commission, the Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament.

Over a period spanning 8 years, we wrote many letters, to New Zealand Government all to no avail. But the Human Right Commission has taken heed and ordered this working paper to be done.

The Algemene Oudersdoms Wet, or in short the A O W means in Dutch old age pension. When in the late 1940 up to 1957, the migrant wave from the Netherlands to New Zealand occurred, to fill the shortage of workers in the economic growth of New Zealand, those would be migrants were informed and promised, that after 20 years work or residency, and having reached the qualifying age a New Zealand pension would be available. That era migrants do and did receive the full New Zealand pension.

However migrants arriving in New Zealand from the Netherlands after 1957 had, built up a part Netherlands pension, that would only be paid at age 65, anywhere in the world. Bizarre as it was all those migrants leaving the Netherlands after 1957, were informed by the New Zealand Authorities, that a full New Zealand pension would be paid on the condition that the person had to be in New Zealand 20 years or longer and having reached the qualifying age of retirement. This is not to be true and the overseas pension, be subjected to the contentious Direct Deduction Policy (DDP).

The promise of a full New Zealand pension was broken, the direct deduction policy never revealed to would be migrants.

Most people affected, feel, that it is grossly unjust, to reduce a superior pension to the level of New Zealand super. Therefore the New Zealand Government, is monetary benefiting (or could it be called legalized fraud) of the DDP approach.

I will give an example, taking myself as instance: At the age of 64 and 3 months I did receive a full New Zealand Super. At age 65, I got pressurized to apply the A O W pension, when granted I received 11% of the AOW pension. This equates to \$ 4,384.44, this sum to be reduced from my New Zealand Super, New Zealand pays me now for 40 continuous years work only \$9,844.33. This to me and thousands of others affected by the DDP is totally unacceptable.

Another example, ladies who never left New Zealand during their entire working life, by marrying a man from overseas, therefore not receiving a New Zealand pension at all.

The Multi-National Superannuation Council and A O W lobby Club have written many letters to the Ministers of the Crown, Members of Parliament, always with the response, that we should have no more pension, than the person who never left New Zealand, (hence the ladies who never left New Zealand) This then questions the morality of the DDP as the pensioner is not to benefit, is then New Zealand Crown to benefit from certain groups of people?

The Minister now in charge of the Direct Deduction Policy, has cancelled all correspondence on this matter with M-N S C and A O W lobby Club with the pretence it is not on the agenda, but it should be on the agenda, because this DDP issue will not go away, as would be pensioners, children and grandchildren who have been overseas, will be similarly affected.

A few years ago the M-N S C proposed an amendment to the DDP, very similar to proposal number 2009-2 in the Executive summary, also endorsed by A O W lobby Club; we then received answers, from a seniors Minister, "This is an interesting solution to a difficult problem". Another Minister from a minor party wrote, "Our proposal is an elegant, noble and simple solution to a festering problem". But nothing was done by either Minister.

Now we hope with the help from the Human Rights Commission, find a politician who has the courage to take this matter to Parliament.

In Conclusion

The direct deduction Policy is and has given New Zealand Crown a large, but totally unfair monetary advantage. The person who never left New Zealand, but married an outlander with an overseas pension, and all other people affected by the DDP are feeling betrayed, frustrated and some are emotional and physically affected, which does *not* allow for a happy retirement

The change, to convey to the forum what people feel and think about the DDP it is therefore that I most grateful thank Dr Claire Dale to have given me the opportunity to do so.

John B Albers
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