



National MUA Veterans NEWS

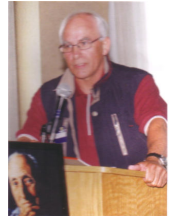
March 2014 *"Retired from the workforce not the struggle"*

Report from the First World Federation of Trade Union Congress Barcelona Spain
of

Pensioners and
Retirees

by

Delegate to conference Fred Krausert National Secretary



Comrades and Friends

Representing 21 countries a hundred and ten delegates attended this historical meeting to address the attacks on the Pensioners and Retired communities of these countries to seek the assistance of the Trade Union movement, and communities. To work hand in hand to counter the attacks on the hard won social conditions that are required for the aged to live their lives in dignity.

Firstly I would like to thank the organizers for the tremendous job that was done, it is never an easy task but the support of every delegate was great

The opening address by the president of the Barcelona retired trade unionists Quim Boix, reported on the attacks that are facing all of us, we understood the need for this historic conference to be held.

Delegate after delegate reported the attacks on their social conditions, and expressed the need for solidarity on a global scale to combat the attacks. The hunger of greed of the corporates is never satisfied, resulting in the trade unions being under attack in most countries, there is urgent need for action to combat the attacks

Here in Australia the aged have never been under attack as that pursued by this conservative government.

There is a concerning trend emerging in Australia economic policy debate that seniors should cough up for the good of the nation. Calls to increase the pension age, tighten pension assets test, review superannuation and the older people draw down equity from their homes to fund aged care are all being bandied about as solution to current and future budget challenges

The intention to attack Medicare forgetting that we all contribute through our tax levy, but no word on the 5.4 billion that is handed out to private enterprise by medical rebates, the high price of doctors' visits, then of course the attack that we are living to long, what a statement to make! ignoring the contribution that is made by the aged in the voluntary capacity work that is saving the government approximately 5 plus billion dollars each year

Now the employment minister Eric Abetz wants to trade penalty rates for flexibility not forgetting that our aged pension is based on the average male wage and all is incorporated into that structure to evaluate the outcome

Comrades the time has come to counter all these attacks we cannot allow this to continue for we will lose everything and our children will have nothing.

United we stand divided we beg

Yours in Solidarity

Fred Krausert
National Secretary
MUA Veterans



Congreso fundacional de la UIS de la FSM
de Pensionistas y Jubilados

4, 5 y 6 de febrero de 2014

Founding Congress of the WFTU TUI of trade unions
of Pensioners and Retired persons

Congrès fondateur de l'UIS de la FSM
de Pensionnés et Retraités

Pensioners and Retired
Pensionistas y Jubilados
Pensionnés et Retraités





E V Elliot Late Federal Secretary Seamen's Union
of Australia

Elliot urged members “ We must become involved in politics, we must read the history of our class, we must strive to understand our theory, and we must strive to apply it in practice.”

These were the principles by which he steered the unions course
“ Taken from Voices from the ships”

The “news” has printed this message as we believe the message is true today as it was then especially for young people who are finding it extremely difficult to make their way in the world.

We live in a society that is driven by the drive for profit and not just ordinary profit but record profit.

We also live in a society that cannot employ all those that want work ,youth unemployment has reached double figures in this country and the future is not looking any brighter. Therefore it is imperative that youth take part in politics and work towards a more human and just society where the youth have a job and a secure future, under the present economic system this is not possible.

Axing Medicare by stealth

Tuesday, 25 February 2014

LAST month CPSA expressed concern about the abhorrent suggestion that bulk billing patients pay a \$6 fee.

[We pointed out how such a move targets people on low incomes](#) and will prevent people from visiting their GP when they need to. We also stated how this could well be the ‘thin edge of the wedge’ and a beginning of the dismantling of Medicare how we know it.

Since then the Australian Minister for Health Peter Dutton has come out saying “I question whether someone on an income of \$200,000 can have an expectation of going to the doctor for free”. (News Corp 21 February 2014).

Now some readers may be thinking, it’s reasonable that people who can afford it pay for their doctor’s visit.

But CPSA proposes that a more equitable way to increase the funding of Medicare (and have a situation where the better off are paying a larger share) is through increasing the Medicare levy.

We must make sure that Medicare remains universal and that nobody is forced to pay at the doctor’s door. This is the central premise to Medicare and something that needs to be preserved so that everyone is covered for essential medical treatment when they need it.

As Dr Jim Gillespie, Deputy Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy has pointed out, “Illness is something people don’t plan around and that’s the real worry with this, that it’s shifting the management of the risk of illness onto individual households, away from a collective sort of social responsibility and its going to create a lot of insecurity, particularly amongst older Australians”. ([ABC Radio The World Today 20 February 2014](#)).



PERTH RALLY

Rally in Perth against the proposed co-payment for bulk -billed GP visits



SYDNEY RALLY

Sydney protest to save Medicare

HANDS OFF MEDICARE

We have reprinted this article from the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW because it is in line with the National Policy of the MUA Veterans Association along with the need for more affordable public housing and more funding for public hospitals. We will need to be vigilant and ready to under take activity in response to Joe Hockey's "end of the era of entitlements"

Dental report displays need for universal dental care

Friday, 13 September 2013

“The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s report *Adult oral health and dental visiting in Australia* released today displays the need for dental care to be incorporated into Medicare,” said Senior Policy Advisor, Amelia Christie.

“The findings reiterate that those on low incomes, particularly those receiving a Centrelink benefit are unable to access sufficient dental services due to the cost.

“Centrelink Healthcare Cardholders were more likely than non-cardholders to report they would have difficulty paying a \$150 dental bill (42.3% compared with 12.5%) and to have avoided or delayed visiting a dentist due to the cost (43% compared with 27.3%).[\[1\]](#)

“CPSA calls on the new Government to reinstate the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme, which Mr Abbott introduced when he was Health Minister, as a step towards dental care being included under Medicare,” said Ms Christie.

Join the campaign for dental care to be covered by Medicare

**Contact your MP
Lobby the Minister
Write letters
to the Government
Let your views be known
become active**

