

I fear you are going to heavily penalize people like my wife and myself.

Both born into the working class at the end of WW2.

Worked hard at school, took our opportunities to secure Commonwealth scholarships to Medical Schools (UQ and U Sydney), supported ourselves by working on every vacation break (our parents could not afford the fees or living support). I became an orthopaedic surgeon through hard work and dedication, and the support of my wife; my wife became a GP and mother to our 5 sons.

In spite of performing a lot of unpaid work (Disabled children's orthopaedics, Queensland director of training, Examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) and 30 years of VMO work at a public hospital, my wife and I have been careful enough with savings from my private practice and our superannuation to be comfortable now that I must soon retire.

How we did it is a bit of a marvel; we certainly paid a lot of tax. My first year of post graduate work (on returning from a fellowship overseas furthering my education) I was met by that wonderful provisional tax. I had to borrow to put food on the table, it was so punitive to a young person with an enlarging family trying to establish a solid practice and provide a house for his family. So don't tell me we haven't paid our fair share.

You will find an excuse to tax our super and savings heavily to support others who have not taken their opportunities or worked towards retirement by saving. You will cloak your dishonest taxation with the words "fairness" and "those who can afford to pay". But it is just stealing, isn't it? You determine who has saved enough to be worth attacking, then portray them as deserving of having it confiscated by the tax dept.

Why? Because, as has been said before, "He who robs Peter to pay Paul can always rely on the support of Paul".

We have just farewelled (not fondly) Malcolm Fraser, who, by failing to cease the supporting mothers' benefit of Whitlam (farewelled even less fondly; What a pair of duds), condemned my wife and I to supporting a lot more than our own children throughout our lives. Now you will take as much of our superannuation and savings as you can get your hands on to fix a right royal mess made by yourselves and politicians.

There will be no account taken of contributions already made, tax or otherwise, and the story will be that we have been parasites by utilizing the taxation concessions of superannuation, and buying a home to raise our children which now happens to be reasonably valuable (of course the value goes up a lot after 30 years, if one buys wisely) .

Politicians (and the Treasury) seem to vilify any group from whom they intend stealing, to make it appear justified (The Post War Baby Boomers; worked hard and paid a hell of a lot of the tax over the last 50 years, but have to be painted in a greedy light at this time to justify taking what they have saved).

So reform away, my wife and I (and a large number of other hard workers in the same situation) know what you are doing. The fact that we cannot prevent you from stealing from us does not mean that we do not resent it enormously.