

IR changes to affect pensions says CPSA

COMBINED Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) stands with the trade unions in opposition to the Australian Government's proposed industrial relations change.

Howard told us nothing about these proposals before the election last year. He lied by omission and now he claims a mandate to destroy working conditions. Many of our members and constituents we serve campaigned long and hard to get decent conditions in their industries. They are not going to stand idly by while Howard tries to wreck our living standards.

Not only does the Australian Government want to abolish basic working conditions, they also intend removing the power of the Industrial Relations Commission to set the minimum wage. This is not only bad for paid workers; it is also detrimen-

Comment

with Morrie Mifsud, CPSA

tal to pensioners. The pension in Australia is calculated against Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) at 25 percent. If MTAWE goes down so will pensions. This will mean pensioners will have even more difficulty paying skyrocketing bills for essentials such as food, housing, transport and health services. And how are people going to save up enough in superannuation to afford a decent retirement?

The proposed industrial relations changes are unjust, regressive, will guarantee greater inequality and poverty for years to come. CPSA supports a concerted effort to make this legislation dead in the water.

• *Morrie Mifsud is CPSA state president.*