



Speech by

GEOFF WILSON

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard 17 September 1998

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr WILSON (Ferry Grove—ALP) (10.47 p.m.): I rise in this Grievances debate to defend from John Howard's GST the many elderly people who live in the electorate of Ferry Grove. This tax is a most unfair and discriminatory tax, especially on those on fixed incomes, many of whom are the elderly, such as Mr John Pantor of Ferry Hills, who recently came to see me. He has been a worker all his life and has had little more than his wages for him and his wife to live on. His wife has Alzheimer's disease and is in a nursing home.

He presented me with a breakdown of his current cost of living. Nursing home fees, drawn from his wife's pension, total \$7,854. He has added up the various other costs involved in maintaining her on an annual basis. There are pharmacy costs for scripts and costs for various creams and skin repair ointments, hair dressing and cosmetics. That all adds up to \$8,799. Her pension is \$9,360, leaving \$570 annually—the princely sum of \$11 per week—for clothing and other items.

This man owns his own home and has very limited savings. His pension is \$9,360 and his total costs, including rates, electricity and so on, are \$6,185, leaving \$3,174—the princely sum of \$61 a week for all extras for himself such as clothing, house maintenance and so on. This is very typical and it is shameful. The GST is an attack upon him.

Time expired.
