

“The objective of superannuation is to deliver income for a dignified retirement, alongside government support, in an equitable and sustainable way.”

Labor has just demonstrated that it is untrustworthy in relation to superannuation based on the Prime Minister’s seriously broken promise made prior to the election.

The media is also now openly speculating on Labor’s real meaning behind the weasel words used in the above statement.

My own opinion is that I’m worried that Labor’s understanding of “a dignified retirement” is one that results in a “dignified” death by euthanasia. Political euphemisms have degraded the meaning of the word “dignity”. In my view that income should ideally support compassionate support services for the later stages of retirement.

Also “equitable and sustainable” are political euphemisms with no or any meaning. My super savings are not a charity fund for Labor to dip into.

The statement appears to have been created by a bureaucratic committee using the novel 1984 as a language guidebook. None of the weasel words are defined or measurable, even when qualified by other descriptors in the body of text. It appears the taxpayers’ super has just become just another victim in Labor’s class war.

Labor must get away from its “one size fits all” socialism that gave us the NBN. Individuals should be able to control their superannuation decisions to meet their own needs, not some notional population average. If someone knows they have a short lifespan, then they can manage their super accordingly. If someone is thrifty and lives on a meagre retirement income with a hope that expensive nursing care will later be within their grasp, that should be acceptable also. Plurality of outcomes in both accumulation and retirement phases is important to meet individual needs and aspirations.

People should be given the right to taper their super contributions. Maximising them when circumstances allow, and minimising their contributions when they are raising a family, with a right to contribute well in excess after that has finished and the mortgage has been paid off. In my case, I was maxxed out on bankcard during the 17% interest rate period, and had loads of income later as an empty nester.

The current flat rate super regime compromises family life and home affordability. The family home is the best investment most people make, and if super can help it should. The mechanism for this I will leave to the experts to resolve and fine tune.

The simple yet effective FSI recommendation would be the one to go with.

Best regards, Philip Neal, a self managed super fund trustee and still working retiree at 73 without aged pension