

To

Civil Society Section
UN High Commission for Human Rights

From

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These opinions may be limited by my Australian based situation, but are culled from 9 years of daily interaction with seniors around the world.

Item1.

- Physical access rights still marginal in many places.
- Pensioners often find cost difficulty in accessing the internet and its beneficial socialisation via forums and more. This especially limits the mental health potential of remote or disabled seniors and also their knowledge of their rights.
- Sub standard housing for many in public tenements, causing them to stay inside far too much leading to lower quality of life.
- Many employment situations are not covered by workers compensation in Australia [which cuts out at 65], hence seniors have to be laid off on an age basis rather than health and or skills basis.
- Galloping technology change is leaving many behind. Those so left behind are disadvantaged with respect to information access bill paying, etc

Item 2

- a) I know of no specific sectoral rights for seniors in Australia, although they do seem to be well covered by generic legislation. Like all Australians there is some risk due to the lack of any Bill of Rights in this country.
- b) Adequate gender discrimination legislation exists but its implementation in practice is slow coming.
- c) Violence and abuse is an area of public sensitivity where such may well be common. Legal requirements to report such are emerging slowly.

- d)** Access to care (nursing homes etc) is seriously under catered for in Australia, and carers across the nation are under re-sourced and stressed.
- e)** No comment
- f)** Data capture is close to non existent. I have been involved with groups seeking to establish such national data bases but without success.
- g)** There are plenty of opportunities for seniors to participate but generally they become self centered and apathetic to such opportunities.
- h)** No comment

Ray Lewis
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