The government is making it harder and harder for Australians to obtain the aged pension. The application forms are complex and difficult to understand. Applications must be completed on line (using a computer) and applications cannot be completed without access to a mobile telephone.

If an applicant phones Centrelink for assistance it may take up to thirty minutes to reach an operator. (Last year half a million callers hung up without reaching call centre staff).

It appears that the application process is made so complex and lengthy that applicants give up and do not receive their pension entitlements. Some applicants now use industry specific accountants to lodge aged pension applications on their behalf.

Other countries such as America and New Zealand automatically grant aged pensions once citizens reach entitlement age. The automatic process of granting aged pensions requires far less government administration and in turn recognises the worth of their citizens during their previous working life. Not so in Australia. One less new submarine or a few less war plane purchases would alleviate all the penny pinching required by the government to cut costs for their aged pensioners.