

Unlike previous newsletters which have covered items of current interest, this newsletter is short and devoted entirely to the message contained in the paper which follows.

In recent months I have been giving consideration to the difficulties in gaining wider community understanding of the concept of a Support Income for Australia. Despite the seemingly significant benefits to be derived from the introduction of such a scheme, little progress has been made towards gaining community understanding, let alone acceptance, of the principles upon which proposals have been developed. This is to some extent a uniquely Australian situation, as the concept of a support income, or as it is commonly known a basic income, is much better known and understood in European and some American nations.

Two earlier papers were published as following papers to the February and May newsletters. Research for the following paper to this newsletter, the third and final paper in the series, has led to the introduction of a new concept, a new proposal embracing the fundamentals of a basic income or support income, but extending the scope of application beyond those nations which have the economic development and growth to immediately introduce a support income or basic income system.

This paper introduces the concept of a national dividend, which may be in the form of a regular income for all citizens along the lines of a support income or basic income, or in the form of a lump sum payment to all citizens on a quarterly, half yearly or annual basis along the lines of the Alaska annual payment to all citizens.

This is a concept which developed as a search for an answer to the problem of achieving greater community awareness and understanding progressed. This concept is now put forward for public discussion. Does this concept provide an avenue for generating public discussion and understanding in relation to the principles of universal income support? Does this concept warrant special consideration in its own right? Ultimately the question must be considered - will the development of proposals based on the concept of a national dividend help to achieve a better system of sharing the benefits of economic growth amongst all citizens, nationally and eventually internationally?

Your comments will be appreciated. If they are of sufficient quantity and quality they will be published on the Support Income Website - www.satcom.net.au/supportincome.

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