

# CPA BULLETIN

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## Brisbane Branch CPA

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### When Things Go Wrong-Who Pays?

When there has been any sort of social calamity, whether the rich bankers have caused an economic crisis or nature steps in and floods us we don't have to ask who will pay for it -we know it is the poor. If the rich paid for it they might not be so rich any more.

Under Capitalism, workers are a commodity, one of the so-called factors of production. The main purpose of capitalist production is for profit not use. Labour (human Labour), along with land and capital, are the commodities to be bought and sold at the cheapest possible price. Workers are paid to work to create all the wonderful products that surround us. This incessant and competitive drive for profits means that there is a constant search to reduce costs including reducing the cost of of labour (our wages). The very generous working class pay for the profits of the rich.

In Queensland the cost of this year's flooding has been estimated to be \$13 Billion. Who is going to pay for this? The rich and powerful or you and me? Silly question isn't it?

- Cost of floods \$13 Billion
- Funds raised by Premier's appeal not yet distributed to Working class people. Where is the money?
- Have the mining companies received compensation?
- Insurance companies will not pay working people
- The CPA calls for a nationalisation of insurance companies. Remember the State Government Insurance Office?
- The Government just talks without taking action.



### The Unemployment Offensive

The Gillard government with the opposition in agreement have singled out unemployed and disabled people for a new series of attacks.

Young workers whose unemployment rate is around 24-25% are being targeted to be removed from welfare. The already tight restrictions are being tightened further with many more people to be denied benefits.

The Government is intent on getting a budget surplus by 2012-2013, to do this they are cutting welfare, education and health.

What the Government won't do is tax the banks and the mining companies and in-fact what they have done is given taxation dollars to these companies.

The other area where the two parties agree is in having troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and supporting America through it's involvement in these wars and through the expenditure of 43 Billion on defence much of which is used to purchase U.S. Military hardware

## The Real Cost of War

111 million people have perished in modern wars. Civilian Deaths in WW1 amount to 5%. In Iraq and Afghanistan the proportion of innocent deaths is 90% that is 1 million in Iraq and 70,000 in Afghanistan.

Military spending has increased by 49% globally in the last decade to reach 1.5 trillion, half of this by the U.S.

The Industrial-Military complex demands new wars.

The real cost of these wars is funded from poverty and \$2 a day workers.

- Everyday 29,000 children die of hunger and preventable diseases.
- Each year 11 million children die, 4 million of which in their first month of life.
- There are 35 million deaths each year due to malnutrition.
- There are 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty.
- There are 1.2 billion hungry people and 2 billion people worldwide suffering of malnutrition.
- 759 million adults are illiterate.

These represent violations of human rights and are the outcome of the U.S. Military machine as it steals the world's resources for its war drive.

The U.S. Has a war agenda based on attacking other nations. They are secretly at war in Pakistan, they have intentions of invading Iran, DPRK and Syria. They are encircling Russia and China. They intend to destabilise all the nations of the Latin American Continent and have war ambitions based on their need to pilfer the world's resources to supply their declining economy.

Both major parties happily expose Australia to this war agenda and are willing to do so at the sacrifice of the living standards of the Australian people. War does not produce real wealth, but leads to poverty and starvation as the aftermath of both of the world wars and Iraq and Afghanistan have shown.



Many Australians were offended by Gillard's Crawling, grovelling prostitution of Australia through Gillard's offer to place military bases in Australia. It has been said that Gillard's behaviour made "all the way with LBJ" look like a cold shoulder.

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## Still no Justice for Palm Island

The death of Mulrunji Doomadgee still goes unpunished and those who interfered in the investigation by conducting it in a prejudiced way have also not been punished. The only people who were jailed were the local relatives and friends of Doomadgee who were rightfully outraged by the cover-up.

So frightened are the state Government that one man is forbidden to speak to the media in a country that claims to have a free press and human rights.

There is speculation that the real target for this abuse is the removal of the Indigenous population residing on Palm Island. The talk is of Townsville city council taking over the island from the local Palm Island council.

The conditions on Palm Island have been kept under developed, with the destruction of Cyclone Yasi adding more trauma.

Instead of throwing the residents off, the State Government should grant freehold title to the residents and hand over development opportunities to the Palm Island council as well as financial assistance.