



Michael
JOHNSON MP



Federal Member for Ryan
& Opposition Whip

****MEDIA RELEASE****

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UNIQUE NATURE OF MILITARY SERVICE

- Military Pension Indexation Equity

Federal Member for Ryan, Michael Johnson MP, today acknowledges and thanks the QLD Branch of the DFWA and the many members of the Australian Defence Force Community who have contacted him in regards to Military Pensions Indexation.

"I am especially deeply moved by the words of Mr Ken Railton OAM, President of the DFWA (QLD), when he says I have "displayed moral courage that is beyond his years and experience and in doing so has gone a long way towards earning the trust and confidence of our community".

I take this opportunity once again to express clearly and publicly my complete and utter personal support for the veteran community's call for indexation of their military superannuation. I also call on the Australian Labor Government and the Federal Opposition to explore ways to restore financial equity for the veteran community when it comes to Military Pensions Indexation." Mr Johnson said.

If Mr Rudd can find \$25 million to help re-train the Taliban in Afghanistan, then he can find the money for our veterans. If Mr Rudd can find \$250 million of taxpayers money for the free-to-air TV networks, he can find money for our veterans. If Mr Rudd can find \$500 million to pay for the removal of foil insulation from Australian homes installed at an earlier massive \$300 million, then he can surely find money for our veterans. If Mr Rudd can find \$43 billion for a so called national broadband network, without so much as even a business plan in place, then he can absolutely find the funds that will restore equity to our veterans who have been short-changed for decades now.

"The uniqueness of military service sets aside members of the Defence Force community from all other citizens in our society as they surrender their life, liberty and security during the term of their service."

"As a Nation we acknowledge the uniqueness of our Military through specific legislation and indeed Ministerial portfolios to both govern their service and to meet their welfare needs. The *Defence Force Discipline Act*, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act* are but a few examples." Mr Johnson said



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“There is no hiding that the previous Howard Government failed miserably in redressing the military superannuation” and all who were associated with that Government should now make amends and re-double their efforts to find the money to redress this gross financial injustice. In particular, Mr Rudd should hang his own head in utter shame in light of the clear perception he created in the Defence Community at the 2007 Federal election when he effectively promised financial redress of this inequity.”

“For my part, I will continue to stand by the Ryan Defence Force and the national defence community in fighting for their interests rather than lie low and comfortable in the anonymity of irrelevance. For my part, it is time for the politicians to show distinction when our veteran community are counting on us, more than ever”.

I strongly implore all members of the Defence Force community once again to contact me with their suggestions and ideas that will lead to a restoration of their financial equity and justice through indexation of the military superannuation pension”. Mr Johnson said.

“This injustice has gone on for too long. Enough is enough” Mr Johnson said.

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