



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

2 March 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENT FINALLY GETS A CHANCE TO FIX THE MILITARY PENSIONS DEBARCLE

The Defence Force Welfare Association and its Alliance* partners welcome the coming debate on fair indexation for military superannuants, expected to occur later this month in the Senate with the tabling of the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010*.

If approved by Parliament the Bill will amend the *Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948* and *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973* so that military superannuation pensions paid under these Acts to retired defence force members over 55 years of age are adjusted bi-annually by the same percentage as other Commonwealth pensions.

Government pensions increase in line with the cost of living, but military superannuation pensions do not. DFWA National President David Jamison says that former ADF members on military superannuation suffer year by year erosion of the purchasing power of their pensions – pensions they paid for whilst serving.

“The Government is neglecting those who have served the country by refusing to adjust their superannuation pensions to maintain their purchasing power and the Government keeps making excuses about not being able to afford it” he said today.

“We simply can’t understand the Government’s hypocrisy in breaking its promise and denying ADF members justice in their superannuation schemes whilst at the same time maintaining their constant rhetoric about how vital and appreciated the men and women of the ADF are. This issue is a major concern for all ex-service organisations and needs to be fixed”.

"It is getting to the stage where potential recruits to the ADF need to think quite seriously about whether or not they've got confidence that they will be treated fairly during their service and when they've retired" he said.

In respect to the upcoming parliamentary debate, David Jamison called for fair indexation to be extended to all military superannuants – including those in the current MSBS scheme and especially those under 55 on invalidity superannuation pensions. “The Opposition’s Bill is most welcome but is just a start to fixing the wrong that is being imposed on current and retired members of the ADF, defence widows and their families” he concluded.

*Naval Association of Australia, the RAAF Association, the Royal Australian Regiment Association and the SAS Association of Australia.

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