

As President-Elect of the TPI Federation I would like to advise the views of the Australian TPI Federation on the proposed Veterans' Affairs Legislation (2015 Budget Measure) Bill 2015 which will be discussed at a Senate Enquiry.

The Federation agrees with the purpose and the intent of the Bill and fully endorses the single appeal path option for all Veterans. This will enable the Veterans relief from the heartache of additional costs just to obtain their entitlements for compensation. The Veteran will still have a complete appeal process at their disposal by way of the Veterans Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. There will also still be available to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Veteran, an internal Military Rehabilitation Compensation Commission review for the more simplistic claims that previously had large costs attached to them when the Veteran unnecessarily utilised legal firms to represent them.

The enhancements to the Veterans' Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) are welcomed by the TPI Federation and will be of great benefit to the many Veterans who wish to return or remain in the workforce. This can only enhance their well-being and their self-esteem.

The expansion of the War Graves Regulation under the Defence Act 1903 to include graves of Service dependants buried in Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia is also another welcomed initiative and will confirm with the relatives of the Service Dependents that Australia acknowledges the sacrifice of those interred and also that Australia cares for them and their relatives.

Thank you

Pat McCabe

Vice President

Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd

DIFFERENT CONFLICTS ~ SAME SACRIFICE

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