

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

ABN 63 008 488 097

From: Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)
National President

10 September 2015

Mr David Sullivan
Committee Secretary
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By Email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

Inquiry into Schedule 2 of the the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015.

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) welcomes the opportunity to forward a submission in relation to the Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee's inquiry into Schedule 2 of the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015.

Since the release, in March 2011, of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) Review Steering Committee recommendations, the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has been steadfast in supporting the single appeal path to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) and then to the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT).

It is the RSL's belief that Schedule 2 of the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2015 Budget Measures) Bill 2015 delivers an Appeal process that will best serve all MRCA claimants.

The RSL understands that the appeal process will follow in 3 steps if the Claimant is unhappy with the original decision of a Delegate of the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Commission (MRCC):

1. An internal review under Section 347(1) of MRCA. Similar to a Section 31 Review under the Veterans' Entitlement Act.
2. An appeal to the VRB
3. An application to the AAT

The RSL supports this process unconditionally.

The RSL welcomes attendance at any public hearing of the Committee to elaborate or answer any questions regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely,

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