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Good Afternoon,

I am a veteran who served my country in South Vietnam and did 22.5 years in the Army.

Just before I retired I attended a resettlement seminar for persons who were being discharged informing them of benefits and rights on discharge.

They mentioned that a member who had done 20 years' service could commute some of his pension into a lump sum and pay it back until you reach a notional life expectancy which I think from memory was about 72 or 75 years of age. I considered this a LOAN as I had to repay it back from my remaining DFRDB pension. As with all loans when you finish paying it off you will expect to have more money in your pocket each fortnight. However, this has not been the case and nothing was ever mentioned or received that our pension would remain at the lower rate.

I believe it was a glaring mistake not to mention the above in the resettlement seminar or in writing from the DFRDB Authority.

The government is always saying how our veterans must be supported in every way, well I hope the government shows enough fortitude to restore our DFRDB pension to its full amount especially when members are old and most of them may need it.

Just in closing I have made a previous submission to both the government and opposition and I have not even received a courtesy reply!

I hope this time the ADFRA submission will be listened to and their recommendation be approved.

Regards,

Brian Collins