

Senate Inquiry into Superannuation Reform

I submit the following brief points for perusal in the hope our case will be heard fairly and produce positive outcomes for ex- defence superannuates.

Defence employment is totally and utterly different to any other role within the work force.
It is unique.

The above point must be clearly comprehended. No other job demands that an employee train so rigorously then vigorously fight and kill other human beings under the Australia National Flag and or die for the country. In addition it must be understood that military service is extremely demanding, physically and psychologically and one *must give* all to the job. This includes at home as well as on active service. The spouses and families are in there as well.

No other employment demands this unique tasking

Accordingly, the governance of superannuation for defence personnel needs to be independent and stand alone to ensure clear and appropriate management.

Superannuation indexation should not in way discriminate against ex defence superannuates. The fact that it currently does is very offensive. And so the question is put by many – why is this so? Why *punish* those Australians who have given their all for Australia?

To have defence superannuation managed by a proposed board including trade unionists is wrong.

My personal experience with trade unions is not pleasant and one must conclude that there is anti defence attitudes within unions. As a Vietnam Veteran I state that I had mail and resupply blocked by unions. I, whilst in charge of a group of young veterans returning to Australia on leave from active service, experienced verbal abuse and heckling from unionists on an airport tarmac. It was appalling and the young battle weary soldiers were very, very disturbed and angry. The conduct of these soldiers under truly rotten circumstances was exemplary. This in itself demonstrated the very clear differences between them and their would be adversaries.

The statement attributed to Labor's Mark Latham that, "Defence is the worst Ministerial Portfolio because you have to deal with meatheads", or words to that effect, is fair indication of the hostile mindset that has to overcome to ensure fair treatment.

Defence superannuation needs to be protected from anti servicemen/women elements within our society. They are unquestionably there, for whatever reasons and accordingly the most suitable management for defence super is an independent board.

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