

2 September 2025

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

DFRDB Pension Scheme - Commutation

Dear Senator Lambie and Committee Members,

As a long serving DFRDB veteran superannuate I feel I was misled into accepting a lump sum commutation by the CSC and the DFRDB Authority (DFRDBA). The term COMMUTATION was NOT defined in the DFRDB Act or any documentation produced by the DFRDBA from the outset. It appears that the DFRDBA adopted a 'legalese' interpretation of the term COMMUTATION known only to legal, financial, and accounting experts, without revealing this. Their vernacular of the term COMMUTATION was outside the understanding of the common man as well as Military veteran superannuates. Even the highest of ADF Officers were deceived by this terminology.

My main issue with the system is that I was never informed that the length of the commutation period would be a lifetime.

The DFRDBA failed to advise the **CONDITIONS** of accepting a Lump Sum.

I understood the Lump Sum was to be repaid to the Commonwealth. As the lump sum was calculated on Notional Life Expectancy (NLE), and by not being informed differently, I believed the reimbursement would expire at the NLE point. **My commutation was calculated on a NLE of 72 years. I am now 80 years old and believe that my pension should have been reinstated to the full amount once I passed 72 years of age.**

It seems a total injustice to me that having served my country, the Government fails to honour and keep its side of the agreement. Continuing to ignore and deny the many requests by organisations and individuals to have this travesty of justice fixed is unacceptable and **Un Australian.**

I hope that your committee and yourself, noting that you were once a serving member, will right this wrong and not wait until **All** DFRDB recipients have passed and there is no one left to pay.

Anthony B. Parkin
Commander RAN Rtd