

I wish to address two concerns which I have with CDDA claims and Act of Grace payments.

Firstly, I will address CDDA claims.

This claim is for compensation caused by defective administration. This can occur when one is given poor or wrong advice from a person whom works for the commonwealth, which has occurred in our case.

My concern is that when this problem arises, the department does not openly tell you that you have a mechanism to recover, what you should have rightly should have received, had the error not occurred. You would think that if the government department had made an error, which they acknowledge they did, they would then direct you to claim for CDDA. Rather than allowing you to feel frustrated and angry. My husband is a young verteran.

Our problems arose from being given the wrong claim form by a DVA worker. This claim was then rejected, but not by the virtue of being the wrong form! And was then subsequently rejected again, under review! But also not by the virtue of it being the wrong form, in fact DVA never alerted us to the fact that it was ever the wrong form, until settlement in our favour at the AAT. It was then disclosed that because we filled in the wrong form, which they gave us, we could not receive the compensation for incapacity because we were out of the 12 month time limit.

It was not a fair scenario to then just leave it at that, the mistake was theirs not ours. But to then not provide advice to rectify the wrong doing is even more obscene. We have now made a claim for CDDA, which has no time limit to finalize. We have been awaiting an outcome for this claim for some 13 months now, which is wrong.

My second concern is that it has come to my attention recently that the Navy engaged in a Bonded indenture program in the 1950's.

That is they recruited 13 year old boys under this program and allowed their parents to sign them up for 22 years! This is obscene and these poor boys who through no choice of their own were virtually incarcerated into the Navy against their will, for most of their young adult life. Not only should this practice which I believe was against the law, be investigated, but more so, those whom have been affected by this practise should be given some form of Act of Grace payment and apology.

Regards

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