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Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
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Sent by email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

To: Ms Bonnie Allan

Senate Committee of Inquiry – Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2013

Whilst VACC understands the need to introduce legislation to regulate transparency and accountability in financial reporting of industrial organisations, we are concerned with the pace with which the Bill is being progressed through the parliamentary process. The recent changes introduced by the former Government are still in the process of implementation and a review of the Bill to ascertain its impact requires proper consideration.

VACC is not in a position at this stage to either support or oppose the Bill until we assess its impact on our internal processes. On a quick glance of the Bill, there appears to be some duplication with processes already dealt by the previous Government's Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Act 2012, (the Act).

VACC will be putting the changes to its Constitution and Rules to an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members on Wednesday, 27 November 2013 to comply with the requirements of the current Act. The process required to draft the changes to the Constitution and Rules has been very slow due to the delay in receiving accurate and detailed information on the correct way of implementing these changes. VACC is concerned that we will go through the complex process of changing our Constitution under the existing Act, only to find we will have to make further changes in the future to comply with this new legislation. VACC would welcome further clarification as to the transition from the Act to the requirements of this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Leyla Yilmaz
General Manager Industrial Relations, OHSE & Training