



Vietnam Veterans' Federation

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Dr Kathleen Dermody
 Committee Secretary
 PO Box 6100
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
 Parliament House
 Canberra



Submission to the Inquiry into the Veterans' Entitlements Amendment Bill 2011

The federation has a number of concerns with the proposed amendments relating to offsetting provisions of the VEA. The points which like to highlight are:

We understand the amendments will give the Department the right for compensation paid for all conditions that are pensionable and sets that off against the combined pension that would be otherwise be payable. This disadvantages veterans who receives most of the compensation for the effects of an injury, before the Court settlement, and has a minor ongoing problem. The effect is that the Department is that Department offset that the department offsets that pre-settlement compensation for one injury against the post injury incapacity caused by a different condition.

The purpose of the provision is to prevent a veteran a veteran being compensated twice for the same injury then the legal costs and disbursements should not be taken into account... They are not the compensation for injuries but the cost of obtaining that compensation.

Under the wording of the amendments an example we foresee is a veteran who injures his ankle and receives compensation and then later injuring his knee causing similar

Injuring to his knee with the same diagnoses having his compensation for the injury to the ankle offset against the compensation for his knee.

We believe the amendment is too broad. The legislation be limited that compensation be offset against the same injuries only.

Yours faithfully

Tim McCombe OAM
President