



## SENATOR CLAIRE CHANDLER

Shadow Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

30 May 2024

Ms Alison Frame  
Secretary  
Department of Veteran's Affairs  
GPO Box 9998  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Via email:

Dear Ms Frame,

I write on behalf of Opposition Senators ahead of the upcoming Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade 2024-25 Budget Estimates hearings, relating to the Department of Veteran's Affairs, to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Consistent with the practice of recent years, including when the former Coalition Government were in office, to assist the Committee undertake its obligations to scrutinise Commonwealth expenditure on behalf of the Australian public, I request the Department provide the following detailed information:

- By program area, details of how any underspends have been re-purposed.
- For each category of claims being processed, for each month since and including April 2022:
  - The total number of claims being processed.
  - The age distribution of claims (actual) based on the timeliness performance measures as they appear in the PBS.
  - The age distribution of claims (percentage) based on the timeliness performance measures as they appear in the PBS.



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- In relation to answers to Questions in Writing numbers 452 and 453 in the House of Representatives, updated and current monthly data since the change of government on:
  - The number of veterans receiving compensation under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence Related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) and the number of veterans receiving fortnightly Disability Compensation Payments under the Veteran's Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA).
  - Without releasing personally identifiable information, details on any veteran compensation payments approved outside of the above Acts for each of the last three financial years and year to date.
  - Without releasing personally identifiable information, details on the amount of the ten highest valued compensation payments, and the nature of injuries they related to, for each of the last three financial years, and the year to date.
  - Without releasing personally identifiable information, the number of veteran compensation payments that exceeded \$1 million and the nature of injuries acquired, for the last three financial years and the year to date.
  - Without releasing personally identifiable information, the number of veteran compensation payments that exceeded \$500,000 but less than \$1 million, and the nature of injuries acquired, for the last three financial years and the year to date.
- Details over the forward estimates of Budget Paper No.1's identified "\$222.0 million to harmonise veterans' compensation and rehabilitation legislation", including details on what measures and costings underpin the budget estimate.
- Details on any legal advice the Department claimed in media impacted on its constitutional authority to provide official commemorations in relation to the variously titled unmarked World War I war graves; and its impact on program expenditure.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request and look forward to your attendance before the Committee.

Your sincerely

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Senator Claire Chandler  
**Liberal Senator for Tasmania**