

26th February 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SENATE INQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION REFORM

It has come to my notice that the parliament has brought a bill to effectively meld civilian and military pensions by the creation of a joint board to control both.

Australian military forces have fought in everybody's wars since the Boer War. The results of the sacrifices made by military personnel over the years has enabled this country to be the haven that it is. These sacrifices were not made by plumbers or builders labourers.

In nations that value their military personnel there has been some premium to encourage appropriate personnel to join the military service, be it soldier settler schemes, education benefits, or superannuation. In Australia there has been a concerted attack on military superannuation since the 1980's, as successive governments think that the military can be fobbed off with medals, pledges, anthems and promises. Already looking at recruitment difficulties it is easy to imagine that the pursuit of these policies of degradation of benefits for military personnel will be totally counterproductive to the maintenance of a capable military force and ultimately the security of the nation.

Military service is totally different to any other occupation and therefore should be administered by organizations, administrations and statutes that cater for its unique requirements.

G A Warrener