

Dear Sir,

I strongly object to the proposed *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*.

The effect would be to bring military superannuation under the same umbrella as other commonwealth employees. How can any legislators in their right minds propose these changes which would seriously undermine the unique status of those who enlist in the Armed Services .

Australian Defence Force personnel, unlike their civilian counterparts, are required to take up arms and defend our country , if necessary putting their lives at risk , quite significantly more so than those who enter into any other government employment. The inherent nature of their service impacts not only on potential hardships to be faced by the people in uniform themselves but also on their spouses and their extended families. This is the "uniqueness" of military service the value of which to the nation we should never lose sight, nor do anything to discount that value .

The *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010 proposes to do both!*

You will be aware that Service and ex service organizations with wide support in the community have struggled and lobbied for years so far without success to have this "difference" in service recognized by separating the system of indexation from other government superannuation . This bill seems to be a move by the GOvernment to rid itself forever of complaints on armed services superannuation by taking away their effective representation on the relevant "board".

Servicemen do not strike, nor take industrial action of any kind. The only representation they have to address relevant problems is their Superannuation Board . The proposed Act effectively reduces that representation to an insignificant level and puts them in the same boat as any other trade unionist but leaving them lacking the latter's means of negotiation or redress.

This is an anathema and a gross injustice to all who served, are serving, and may serve in the future .

Apart from the inherent injustice it can only result in less interest in military service and seriously worsen an already deteriorating major manning problem for our ADF.

Military service needs separate considerations. Military service is of the highest calling our country can ask of its citizens. Our country needs to be able to employ and properly train the right people to do what is asked of them Surely it is also the responsibility of governments to ensure these men and women are treated fairly during their engagement and well after their call to duty is done.

I expect that this new proposal will horrify all ex-servicemen and women who understand the effects , along with their family members and ex service organizations.

Military superannuation schemes must remain separate from all other schemes, and be controlled by a separate governing body (Board of Directors). In all our best interests ,

please reject this bill.

Yours faithfully

Peter Larard