

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600 Email: sent by email fpa.sen@aph.gov.au and
Australia Post 28 February 2010.

Honourable Senators (if applicable)

I can add nothing in terms of objection to the passage of this bill that has not already been placed before you in a well reasoned, logical and articulate manner.

I therefore make the following points and request that you give them due consideration.

- 1) That successive governments both Liberal and Labor have systematically eroded and undermined the Conditions of Service of the ADF and Veteran Community with a consequent loss of morale and confidence.
- 2) That the ADF and ex service superannuants deserve the best possible superannuation scheme that the nation can devise. The pre 2004 parliamentary scheme serving as a benchmark.
- 3) Given that although ADF pay has improved it will never be in a position to meet those salaries and conditions in private enterprise. The ADF will always suffer a brain drain as a consequence. Therefore, a superannuation scheme recognized as nation's best, is a significant recruiting and retention drawcard as well as a long overdue boost to morale.
- 4) Both Labor and Liberal when in government have sought to " civilianize" many aspects of the ADF. The hypocrisy of equating our military to societal norms on the one hand whilst expecting them to do the hard and dangerous work of our foreign policy needs to be acknowledged and reversed. You (the parliament) can not have your cake and eat it to. Either you accept what they are required to do in your (our) name and remunerate them accordingly or cease to place them in harms way.
- 5) You will be held to account for your actions and the passage of this bill will be regarded as yet another denigration of our Anzac heritage and those who uphold it in our name.
- 6) That the whole issue of ADF pay and conditions and financial be subjected to a full and wide ranging inquiry. That the TOR NOT be set by those who have a vested interest in minimising the cost to government (we the tax payers) but by a wholly independent and impartial body. The object is make binding recommendations to government on how to IMPROVE conditions of service for the ADF and what can appropriately and deservedly flow onto the Veteran Community.
- 7) The ADF is NOT an industry that can produce "productivity gains" for the government and neither does it have the industrial bargaining power of a trade union, it is a unique and stand alone 'profession of arms" that can not be equated to any other form of employment or vocation.
- 8) For too long the ADF has been taken for granted and ignored solely because of the arrogant but correct assumption that they are " men under authority " and a 'disciplined profession" who have ' sworn an allegiance to the sovereign and the nation" therefore will always obey their orders regardless. History records the fallacy of this misguided assumption. Like any dog, if you kick it once too often, it will bite back. And in this case you can expect the bite to be via the ballot box.

In conclusion Senators, your ethics and principles are very much on the line with this one. We know the position of Rudd/Tanner/Sherry on this and what disingenuous arguments they will raise to weasel their way out of according the ADF and the Veteran Community EQUITY, FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE, it is now up to you to do you utmost to see that past wrongs are finally righted and further one is not perpetrated.