

Gentlemen.

You have received many submissions on the issue of military superannuation. What I have read and noticed is that some points are left out.

The scheme we paid into was a compulsory scheme, no choices, 5.5% of our income with no employer contributions. Tax was paid on the gross amount of our pay, therefore on our contributions.

Whitlam took the funds out of the servicemen's superannuation scheme in 1972, placed it in consolidated revenue. The money we had been required to pay compulsorily!

Keating took a percentage during his term, which was never corrected or addressed again.

How much was transferred to consolidated revenue when DFRDB was exchanged to ComSuper?

It would seem to me that Government entities and departments have been entirely too free with our money whenever they feel the urge to top up their dwindling coffers. A simple ex military man like myself would call that theft, but I have heard it said that when it is done at Government level it is known as creative accounting.

I am also an ex Army Medical Assistant, so I can tell you first hand of the pain, anguish and misery of those unfortunate enough to suffer injury or illness due to service for this country. There is nothing on mainland Australia that compares to what these people had to face, the trials they have to endure on a daily basis.

You wish to try to compare their duty, their commitment, their responsibility to any other Government job?

As Government officials, you may have the right to put them in harms way, but as civilians you have no right to establish their conditions. That is for their Commanders to decide. The very same men that are facing the same perils, and care for their welfare and well being!

A.J. Krikke.