



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Totally & Permanently Ex-Servicemen & Women's Association of Victoria Inc. (TPI Victoria Inc.)

#### **TPI Victoria Inc. Statement concerning the Definition of Operational & Non-Operational Service.**

[Melbourne, Victoria] - Friday 9 April 2021

*The TPI Victoria Inc. Committee of Management (CoM) has recently been concerned with the discussion across the ESO Sector relating to comments made in 2017 by the TPI Federation of Australia (TPI Federation) President and Mr. Peter Thornton at a Senate Inquiry, purporting to represent the views and 'policy' of the federation and its members, being the States and Territories that included TPI Victoria Inc.*

*The TPI Federation President, Ms. Pat McCabe OAM told the Senate Inquiry in Perth in May 2017, that the federation and its members supported the view that Warlike Service and Peacetime Service are one and the same and that the TPI Federation of Australia Directors and members had reinforced this view over three (3) TPI Federation Congresses, after seeking approval of the membership.*

*Those Senators that were present at this Inquiry into Veterans Suicide are now aware that the TPI Federation President deliberately misled the Senators and the Inquiry Committee at that meeting as to what was the TPI Federation Policy on Peacetime and Warlike service by stating that all service was equal.*

*The statements made by the TPI Federation President no doubt confused Senator Fawcett, and others, as this was not the Policy of the federation, but only the opinion of the TPI Federation President, Ms. Pat McCabe OAM and Mr. Peter Thornton who are both Domestic TPI's without any Operational Service. Neither of these persons had the authority at that time to make these statements, nor was there, or is there currently, any policy position to state these views at such a high level inquiry. These statements can only be seen, and were put forward as, their personal views and should not have been presented as the views or policy position of the TPI Federation of Australia Membership.*

#### **The Nature of Operational & Non-Operational Service:**

*The recent report by the Productivity Commission (Compensation & Rehabilitation for Veterans - A Better Way to Support Veterans) has promoted discussion on the nature of compensation due to military service, and it is the view of TPI Victoria Inc. that there is, and continues to be, a very real and distinct difference between Warlike and Peacetime service as follows:*

- 1. In non-operational service the safety of the troops involved is the paramount consideration. If there is a peacetime activity, including training for war, (which is invariably made as realistic as possible), involves a risk that makes the taking of casualties inevitable, the activity either does not proceed, or if in progress, is stopped. The casualties cannot be justified; and*
- 2. In operational service achievement of the mission is the paramount consideration. While it is a core responsibility of commanders at all levels in war to achieve the mission with a minimum of casualties, if casualties are inevitable, they have to be accepted as part of the cost of achieving the mission.*

*Thus, the two categories of service are fundamentally different in that respect and the distinction made in the administration of veterans' care. It is appropriate and must be preserved. (1)*

*TPI Victoria Inc. does not support the TPI Federation President's views that only one set of legislation should exist and that all Australian Defence Force (ADF) Service is the same. Further, it also does not support, nor condone, the actions and statements of the TPI Federation President, nor those of Mr. Peter Thornton in this matter and they did not have the support or the authority of our association to make these statements on our behalf.*

*TPI Victoria Inc's position is that Legislation must exist for all types of military service and that a clear distinction remains between Peacetime Non-Operational Service and Operational Service.*

(1) DFVA 13th February 2021

**Peter Holz**

President - TPI Victoria Inc.

**Friday 9 April 2021**

**All about the Veteran.**

*If you have served - we owe it  
to you that we do the same.*



NAVY



ARMY



AIR FORCE