

3 March 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance & Public Administration
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**RE: GOVERNANCE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVT SUPERANNUATION
SCHEMES BILL 2010 - SENATE ENQUIRY**

Honourable Senators

From my reading of other submissions sent to you, you will be aware of the dissatisfaction by Ex-service people to the passage of this bill in its present form.

I therefore support the following points made by others and request they be given 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) cannot have your cake and eat it too. Either you accept what they are required to do (unique service) and remunerate them accordingly or cease to place them in harm's way.

- 5) You will be held to account for your actions and the passage of this bill in its present form 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 finance be subjected to a full and wide ranging enquiry. That the Terms of Reference NOT be set by those who have a vested interest in minimising the cost to government but by a wholly independent and impartial body. The object is to make binding recommendations to Government on how to IMPROVE conditions of service for the ADF and what can appropriately and deservedly flow on to 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 cannot be equated to any other form of employment or vocation.
- 8) For far 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 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. 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 your utmost to see that past wrongs are finally righted and a further one is not perpetrated.

 Yours sincerely