



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed changes by the Government to bring military superannuation under the same umbrella as other commonwealth employees, via the proposed *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*. It is an unfair proposal that would disadvantage those past members and future military enlistees who elect to serve in our military and to whom this country owes its security and safety. Past changes to military superannuation has shown that any changes are unfair to those who serve and have served Australia in uniform.

Combining all retirement and superannuation schemes into the one basket would undermine the unique status of those who enlist in the Services; those who sign away their basic rights to the Nation. Military personnel, unlike civilians, are required to take up arms and defend our country therefore putting their lives at risk more so than those who enter into other government departments.

The unique requirements of military service bring greater risk of personal injury to Service personnel that impacts on their entire life and their family who suffer hardships alongside their partners related war services and the rigors of military life. This discrepancy and is entirely out of proportion to those who **do not** have to place themselves in harm's way.

Military service needs separate considerations and, as you once stated, Military service is of the highest calling our country can ask of its citizens. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that our country employs and properly trains the right people to do what is asked of them (including the ultimate sacrifice) and then it is also the responsibility of governments to ensure these men and women are treated fairly during their engagement and beyond.

This new proposal will be strongly resisted by all ex-servicemen and women along with their family members within our organizations. Our include families so we are many throughout Australia. We do not riot, demonstrate or scream to get our way like most groups; instead we are the loyal but silent protectors of our Nation and freedoms. Knowing that the the Board is to be stacked with 3 ACTU members to 2

Service members, who would easily be out voted on matters addressing Service related issues, is particularly galling.

Therefore, I wish to lodge my objection to merge all military superannuation schemes with other superannuation schemes. I also strongly object to the proposed composition of the Board of Directors, in that there will be three ACTU Directors, only two Defence Directors and five Directors appointed by the Minister for Finance. This is seen as yet another step in the diminution of the traditionally accepted "uniqueness of military service". I am very concerned that, one day, military superannuants will be treated exactly the same as Commonwealth Public Servants and trade unionists.

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

Respectfully Yours,


Mick Burgess