

23 Mar 2021

The Committee Secretariat,  
The Senate Enquiry into the TPI Pension and DFRDB Superannuation Scheme,  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

SENATE ENQUIRY INTO THE TPI PENSION AND DFRDB SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Good morning,

My name is Neville MADDEN and I was a long-term serving member of the Australian Army; including War Service in Vietnam. I am a DFRB Pension recipient and a TPI.

I wish to make the following submissions.

1. DFRDB

- during my 26 years of military service I was never given any written information about either the Defence Forces Retirements Benefits Scheme and the subsequent Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme,
- I was only told by senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCO) that on retirement I had the option to commute for years of my pension into a lump sum. At no time in my Army career was I given any documentation relating to the pension schemes,
- I always understood that if I commuted, my pension would be reduced so that by the time I reached 72 years of age I would have paid back this commutation and my retirement pension would be restored to the full amount,
- If I lived past 72 years of age then on my death my wife would receive 5/8 of the **FULL** pension,
- I am now nearly 81 years of age and feel that I have been ‘ripped off’ of my full pension entitlement for the last nine years.
- During my resettlement (retirement) seminar nothing was said about withholding my restoration of the pension to its full value. Most of the lecture was taken up by Greg Chappell, the retired cricketer, telling us retirees that the best thing to do with our commutation was to place it in his managed investment fund

2. TPI

I am also a TPI as the result of war caused injuries and injuries received during my extensive military service. I still have a house mortgage and because of my war caused injuries need a car

that has large doors to give me reasonable access. The most suitable vehicle with these properties is the Suburban Utility Vehicle (SUV) type of vehicle. The only way I can afford this is to use a Finance Company to purchase the vehicle with payments over many years. This is not the way the the disability payment for TPIs was intended for.

If I had received the same injuries in private enterprise employment I would have been entitled to large compensation lump sums that would have allowed me to purchase for cash a house and leave me sufficient income from the money invested to live comfortably for the rest of my life. Yet the Government's policy is to pay us TPIs less than the minimum wage of \$1507.60 per fortnight and trickle it out fortnightly to us. Even though this is supposed to be compensation for the fact that we have not been able to work from when the TPI pension was granted.

Yours Sincerely,

Neville MADDEN