

23 March 2021

Mr Ian Bawden

The Australian Parliament (Senate)

A Submission

Accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) Members.

Dear Committee Members,

Having served 21 years in the RAAF I resigned in July 1999,

My RAAF training taught me to communicate accurately and clearly and to retain important documentation for reference if required. I therefore still have in my possession printouts of all of the DFRDB information presented at my combined services resettlement seminar held at Leeuwin Barracks, Fremantle, WA in July 1999.

Titled '**COMSUPER - DFRDB - O'Heads**' the information comprises 5 x A4 back to back pages of data, formula and tables relating to DFRDB entitlements and how to calculate an individual's Comsuper entitlement and Commutation entitlement based on salary , years served and as compared to retirement age.

Included with the above is the formula to calculate the annual Penalty for Commuting, calculated by dividing the Gross Commutation Amount by the relevant Life Expectancy Factor, obviously defined in years.

Here is the smoking gun which clearly misled all by inferring that this was the amount to be repaid over the defined period in Life Expectancy Years.

I contend that the information presented at my seminar clearly led one, to duly conclude, that by opting for Commutation there was a clear and defined end date to the yearly reduction in Comsuper payments. In my case, following the Penalty for Commuting formula and cross referencing the Life Expectancy table presented on the same page, my date to have fully repaid my Commutation Advance can easily be calculated to Aug 2029.

I was not made aware of or advised at any time during my discharge process, by those officials charged with imparting accurate Comsuper facts and

information, that the annual Penalty for Commuting amount was not to be deducted over a defined period as the documentation referred and suggested but was, in fact, already legislated into the DFRDB act, as a whole of life ongoing deduction.

Can you imagine some years later, my distress and disgust upon learning the true facts and realising that I had unwittingly elected and taken Commutation, a position which clearly is not on the balance of probability, to my advantage.

I am angry and embittered and will strongly support any ongoing effort to have this egregious situation remedied so that there is no financial disadvantage to those of us who unwittingly accepted the Commutation option offered without being told the accurate facts, as legislated in law by the Australian Parliament.

I don't want an apology as was proffered by the Government, I want clear, practical and full legal remedy.

Should you require copies of the documentation that I have described above, please contact me and I will willingly provide certified copies.

For Your Consideration,

Mr Ian Bawden