

“TPI VICTORIA CONCERNS NOT HEARD IN FULL AT THE FADT TPI S/R HEARING ON THE 20th MAY 2021”

1. The TPI S/R DVA Military Compensation for Operational Service (War) is currently not fit for purpose, as far as Operational Service War Veterans are concerned.

It is completely broken when Peacetime Training Domestic TPI can receive more in Compensation from DVA for a Domestic vehicle accident than those that have had their working life drastically shortened and their income dramatically reduced by the trauma and tragedy of War service.

2. *TPI Victoria were also going to request that the FADT TPI S/R Senate inquiry obtain from DVA the 16 draft copies of the KPMG Review, including all of the input that the TPI Federation of Australia President may have had into changing and influencing the outcome of the final report, especially that which may have affected Operational Service War Veterans.*

It is well known that the TPI Federation President and Mr Peter Thornton do not support the KPMG Review relating to Compensation for War veterans and informed DVA that it was Welfare.

We also believe KPMG were not aware that their confidential draft copies were distributed outside of DVA to Politicians for feed back to KPMG via the TPI Federation of Australia.

The 16 Draft copies of the KPMG Review were not given to the general TPI membership of the TPI Federation, the TPI Federation Presidents decision in 2019 to call the Service Pension Welfare was made on behalf of TPI Federation by the Federation President without any referral or discussion with the TPI Federation Directors or the membership.

I was a Federation Director of the TPI Federation of Australia until the 14th August 2020, and on no occasion was I informed or asked to approve the Federation Presidents unilateral decision to notify DVA that the Service Pension was Welfare and not Compensation as recommended by KPMG.

3. *TPI Victoria was also going to raise the issue of the inappropriate, unfounded, not researched comment in the TPI Federation of Australia submission that:*

“Veterans who are Millionaires would receive 100% of a Means-Tested Welfare pension under DVAN’s proposal”.

The TPI Federation of Australia are living in the dark ages in our opinion and have not taken into account that Operational Service War Veterans are receiving

Compensation from DVA for Physical and Psychological damage from War, not Welfare unemployment benefits from Centrelink.

The TPI Federation of Australia also does not seem to understand that wives and partners in the 21st Century are employed in very responsible positions as explained by me at the Senate hearing, they receive large incomes, Superannuation and Family Inheritance, which is then wrongfully assessed by DVA as the Operational Service War Veterans income, this is wrong and not in keeping with what is accepted and expected in any Compensation Court hearing claim in Australia.

4. TPI Victoria will also send you a Index (attached below) to the relevant points and recommendations in the KPMG Review that we would like the Senators to consider, we were also going to discuss these at the Senate hearing.

5. I would like to remind the Senators that the Financial membership of the TPI Federation of Australia is approximately 6000 and that the TPI Federation of Australia does not have right to speak for and represent 27400 TPI. Of the 6000 financial members of the TPI Federation of Australia, thousands of them support the DVAN, TPI Vic, TPI WA and AATTV WA submissions for the Service Pension to be paid as Compensation.

Regards
Bill Williams
Researcher and Committee member TPI Victoria
Life member TPI Victoria
Life member of the 1 RAR Association

The following extracts are from the KPMG study:

- *The Service Pension is also considered an income replacement benefit for TPI Veterans (i.e. compensation). Page III*
- *However the targeting analysis undertaken within this report suggests that some TPI Veteran may be relatively worse off compared to the average TPI Veteran. Page IV*
- *The table illustrates that in addition to the Above General Rate Pension, the Service Pension is also considered an income replacement benefit (i.e. compensation). Page V*
- *We have not undertaken specific research or analysis (e.g. survey individual TPI Veterans) to identify particular TPI Veteran's cohorts that are potentially worse off relative to the average TPI Veteran. Page VI*
- *First Principals Approach ... Common principals underlying compensation ... Maintain a lifestyle that aligns with their pre-impairment lifestyle... Insurance benefits are not means tested. Page's 25/26*
- *Means testing of insurance benefits dose not commonly occur. Page 28*
- *Service Pension: This benefit is considered 'Income Replacement' . 'Income Replacement' benefits (i.e. Above General Rate Pension and Service Pension) Page 32*
- *We have not undertaken specific research or analysis to identify particular TPI Veteran's cohorts that are particularly worse off when compared to the average TPI Veteran. Page 46*
- *The Service Pension should operate to avoid the possibility of members having to rely on charity. Page 79*