



1 February 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate standing Committee on Finance & Public Administration
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES BILL 2010

I have read the proposed bill and as a Military superannuant I do not believe that the passage is not in the best interest of current and future ex-Defence Force members

I am struck with the clear imbalance in the composition of the Board of Directors. The preponderance of civilian to military (up to 13 to 2) must lead to an erosion of the few unique benefits to which Military superannuants are currently entitled.

The thrust of the bill is to consolidate and this, tacit but I believe inevitable, will include a push towards standardization. The current Defence schemes which are tailored to specific Service requirements and conditions of employment can not be made to fit into a standardized, ie civilian, mould.

Military members volunteer to serve in the defence of our nation and surrender many of their basic rights as citizens in doing so. Their service often entails great danger with high risk of injury or death. Because of the unique nature of this service they are compelled to retire at a relatively early age.

The Prime Minister has remarked on this special nature of military service and the need for the government to make special support provisions when that service is over. It is highly unlikely that the basically civilian board will be sympathetic to this position when it comes to number crunching.

Military service is unique and this must be recognised. Any erosion of this recognition will most surely have a bad effect on the morale of serving members, recruiting difficulties and disgruntlement among ex- member.

I strongly object to the proposal to merge Defence schemes with other civilian schemes. I object to the board makeup which is very heavily biased towards civilian needs, input interest and experience.

John Lakey