



**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
(QUEENSLAND BRANCH) INC INCORPORATING
THE DIGGERS ASSOCIATION
48 ALEXANDER CRESCENT,
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'Honour the Dead but Fight like Hell for the Living'

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SUBMISSION BY
THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA,
QUEENSLAND BRANCH INC
for the
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
with regard to the
Governance of the Australian Government Superannuation
Schemes Bill, 2010
the ComSuper Bill 2010 and the Superannuation Legislation
(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill
2010

The Legislation Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration has been requested to determine whether it is necessary to retain a separate board to administer the military superannuation schemes and whether these schemes differ markedly from other Commonwealth Government administered schemes. The Committee on 25 February 2010 invited the Defence Force Welfare Association to make a written submission.

Dear Sir/Madam

Firstly let me apologize for the lateness of this response to the said matter. I have been reviewing all the submissions displayed on your website and, at this time, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Queensland Branch Inc, formally endorse and supports both the DFWA and RSL Submissions.

We fully support the facts stated in relation to the Unique Nature of Military Service and, specifically, the fact that Veterans do have a special status within the community and, as such, require and deserve special consideration.

When a person joins the Services they sign away their civil rights, a civilian does not. The civilian always has a choice of what they do and where they live. Military people do not have this choice unless they have identifiable and provable compassionate reasons. It is the norm that, having invoked compassionate grounds, a military person invariably lessens their chances of promotion and advancement.

Despite what people and/or governments think there is a distinct difference between Civilians and Service people and both groups should always be considered separately.

¹ *Our Mission Statement is 'To assist all Veterans, their Dependants and Descendants in all matters relating to their Welfare, Health and Well Being'.*

2. *Zac's Place, Townsville is owned and operated by the VVAA Qld Branch to provide short to medium term accommodation to all needy and/or homeless veterans and their families at a minimal cost in the NQ Area*

We have no problems with the combining of the military schemes together under the one umbrella but we do not endorse the combining of all schemes both military and civilian together unless both groups have equal representation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to respond to the proposed bill

Yours Sincerely

Signed electronically

John P Smith, OAM, JP (Qual)

President

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Queensland Branch Inc.