

I refer to the proposed changes to the superannuation schemes. I am astounded to read that a Labor Government would propose this type of legislation. The Labor Government has always stood for the good of the soldier and the proposed changes appear to radically reduce the benefits. If the Prime Minister is prepared to stand next to a war widow and by doing so announce his support, I cannot see how this legislation supports that stance.

Although the DFRDB scheme is an 'unfunded scheme', the superannuation salary that the soldiers receive on retirement is really a pittance especially when you consider similar positions of seniority in the civilian workplace.

The defence force has already been identified as being unique (who else would be prepared to fight and die for their country, certainly not today's politicians) and as such their superannuation should be administered as such.

I am concerned that this Bill represents another amalgamation that is proposed with insufficient forethought and with costs that are unsubstantiated and will probably escalate as with other programs introduced by this government.

I am a soldier on the inactive list having entered the Defence Force as a citizen soldier in 1971. I hold the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 in the Infantry Corps.

Respectfully yours

John Lee Tet