

I am commenting on this matter as an ex serviceman and a Military Superannuation Pensioner.

In August last year the Federal Government endorsed the recommendations of the Mathews Review of the indexation of Military and other Commonwealth Superannuation Pensions. This means that I remain disadvantaged by comparison with Welfare Pensioners, Aged Pensioners and pre-2004 Members of Parliament. In the period 1989 to 2008 Military Superannuation Pensions rose by 68%, Aged Pensions rose by 110%, and those of Members of Parliament by 131%.

In volunteering for military service (1944 to 1980 ) I surrendered my basic rights under Article 3 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and placed my life and liberty in the hands of the State. In no other calling, occupation or profession has the State the power to demand the surrender of these rights. In this important respect military service is unique, and should be treated appropriately.

The Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010 will result in a single trustee being responsible for managing the main Commonwealth civilian and military superannuation schemes. This merger ignores the unique nature of military service and will only serve to perpetuate the existing situation where Military Pensioners are assessed on an inferior basis to Commonwealth civilians.

The above is a brief submission to voice my concerns that members of the ADF are in danger of having their conditions of service ignored, and being considered on the same basis as Commonwealth civilians. The merger is certainly not in the best interests of ex-service members.

John F. McDonagh