

2nd March 2010

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

Dear Sir,

As an Ex-serviceman (20 years) and DFRDB beneficiary, I am writing to register my objection to the proposed changes to bring military superannuation under the same umbrella as other commonwealth employees, via the proposed *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*.

To combine all retirement and superannuation schemes into the one scheme is to destroy the unique status of those who enlist in the Armed Forces. It does not recognise the fact that these service men and women sign away their basic rights to the Nation. They are not in the same category as people employed in the public or private sectors.

Military service has unique requirements that impact on servicemen/women's lives. Their families are also affected by this service and the related war caused effects in later life. People employed in the private sector do not have to cope with this effect of their employment after they retire. Military service is of the highest calling our country can ask of its citizens and this should be recognised as a separate consideration in respect to superannuation.

The Government has always had the responsibility to ensure that our country employs and trains the right people to do what is asked of them in the Armed Forces and to look after them when their service is completed. It is an abrogation of that responsibility to proceed with the *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010* in its current form.

Of particular concern is that the Board has 3 ACTU members, 5 Finance bureaucrats and only 2 Service members who would easily be out voted on matters addressing Service related issues. The minimum requirement is to have equal numbers of ACTU and Service Representation, preferably 3 each so that beneficiaries out number the Government appointees.

I wish to lodge my objection to merge all military superannuation schemes with other superannuation schemes. I also strongly object to the proposed composition of the Board of Directors. In my humble view this is another step in the diminution of the traditionally accepted "uniqueness of military service". I am very concerned that, one day, military superannuants cannot be treated in the same way as Commonwealth Public Servants and trade unionists.

Military superannuation schemes must remain separate from all other schemes, and should be controlled by a separate governing body (Board of Directors).

Yours sincerely,

Robert L. Denner