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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

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

Dear Sir,

I am in total opposition to the merger of the MSBS, DFRBS and DFRDB with non-military superannuants.

Military service is unique not only in occupation but also intent; since when does an unemployed person, after receiving the dole for a period of six months, suddenly receive orders that he is to go to Afghanistan to kill or be killed. He does not have the option of refusal – it is a lawful command - his attestation commits him to swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia. Does any other Commonwealth superannuant have to sign such an undertaking?

The military serviceman is going to be reduced to the same status as a paper shuffling bean counter in the Public Service without the same benefits as overtime, tea breaks, air conditioning in the work-place, fixed hours, regular meals, etc. Since when did the Public Service, or the unemployed, or drug addicts, get called out to fight bushfires, assists the Civil Power in floods, earthquakes or other disasters - the only people I saw there during my 26-year service were those committed to SERVE such as the SES and rural fire brigade volunteers.

The bureaucrats that are dreaming up this merger would not have been in a war, or active service zone, for any longer than a few hours, and has absolutely no idea of the requirements of the serviceman and the stresses and strains he endures daily. To reduce him to the same status as an unemployed person – or worse still a drug addict - is an abomination; the military superannuant MUST be kept separate and treated as the unique occupation that it really is. The politics of this proposal stink to high heaven.

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We are being led to believe that there is some difficulty in maintaining the recruiting rate in the three Services, this government swindle will most certainly not help it. I believe that it is being done to avoid changing the indexation of the military superannuant to the same level as other Commonwealth superannuants.