

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

**SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES BILL 2010**

I am writing as a retired Air Force Wing Commander of 20 years service who wishes to object to the proposed bill, which I believe will integrate all government superannuation schemes into one, effectively combining the Australian Reward Investment Alliance (ARIA), the Military Superannuation and Benefits Board (MSB) and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB) into a single trustee body from 1 July 2010.

During my Air Force career, I served in the Northern Territory for nearly seven years over two postings, remote from my parents and siblings, and when married, away from my wife's family. I participated in many exercises in remote parts of Australia and overseas, and worked long hours without overtime, shift allowances, penalty rates, flextime or other benefits enjoyed by non-military workers. My wife's career was put on hold during our three and a half years in Katherine and we missed out on participating in broader family activities due to the distances involved. Yes, I did this willingly, but with the knowledge that my service was acknowledged by government and there were certain retirement benefits that would compensate me, to some extent, for these hardships.

Since my retirement, the Australian Defence Force has had its operational tempo increase significantly, with increasingly risky undertakings overseas, continued expectation of immediate response by the ADF to Australian and regional natural disasters (often with catastrophic loss of Australian lives), and even more demands and expectations placed on serving members and their families.

Military service is different to public service and other civilian jobs. It needs to be recognized, not just in 'feel good' speeches by our elected representatives and leaders, but through sincere, tangible and enduring actions.

The presentation of this bill is not a sincere, tangible and enduring action that demonstrates appreciation of the sacrifices made and continuing to be made by ADF personnel and their families. That the proposed governing body under this proposed bill will include only two military representatives appointed by the Chief of the Defence Force compared with three trade union representatives appointed by the President of the ACTU, and five representatives chosen by the Minister for Finance suggests contempt for currently serving and retired ADF members. This is in

addition to the poor indexing arrangements for military pensions compared to politician and aged pensions.

The proposed bill is unjust and unfair to people who have made genuine sacrifices to serve in the ADF. The serving and retired ADF community comprises a very loyal group of people who will cop a fair amount of average treatment before taking action. This issue has the potential to push many people beyond acceptance of such treatment.

Does our parliament want to see the retired military community actively campaigning against military service because of poor longer term treatment? I believe that if this bill is passed, this is the type of action that will follow.

The retired ADF community and their families don't ask for much. But on this occasion, some favorable consideration is required. I believe that combining Defence and civilian superannuation schemes is not in the best interests of the retired military community and is inconsistent with sincere, tangible and enduring support for an important part of the Australian community.

On this occasion, please demonstrate wisdom and decide that the Australian military, serving and retired, should be and deserves to be treated differently by maintaining separate management of its applicable pension and superannuation schemes.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Anderson