

1 March 2010

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed changes being implemented next year by the Government to bring military superannuation under the same umbrella as other commonwealth employees, via the proposed *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*.

I joined the Army back in 1984 and still enjoy the challenges it presents today. When members of the defence force join and serve we are doing it knowing that we will be put in harm's way. Our families go through the same ups and down during our careers and I have been so lucky that not only being able to pursue my career but that it has been free from serious injury.

We are not the general public but the guardians of our country's freedom and we expect difference from our civilian counterparts. Our super allows us and our chosen board of directors to guide its path through these troubled fanatical times.

It sounds like another Rudd government ploy in reducing cost since the \$800 give away to every Australian who submitted a tax refund in 2008. I guaranteed the tax department got more returns that year than any other.

The Rudd government has to stop using the military to find money for its blunders. I work every day just like any other Australian. I pay my tax just like any other Australian. I don't work from nine to five, our day starts as the sun rises until the sun sets that's when we turn on the lights and keep going. I help defend this country just like every other Australian **in the Australian Defence Force**.

The defence force today has never been deployed to so many countries since WW1 and WW2. Today's world is volatile hence the continuing up scaling of our forces with new platforms and equipment. We are required to push ourselves to the limits and beyond due to the commitments overseas. We are asked to do more with less this year will be busier than last year. We as defence members will be continually asked to put our lives on the line and our family will support us but if this bill gets through we will know we will not be supported by our government when we retire.

Why are Government officials on such a generous pension plan when the benefits of being in the defence force are slowly being diminished as every year passes. By continuing this trend the government will be jeopardising Australia's security. The government knows that once the economy starts to pick up personnel within the defence force will have to wonder if it's

worth staying on or get out and go for the big dollars in mining or overseas opportunities. The Government needs its defence member to serve for longer periods due to the expense of training them. This is what the government need to focus on not how to reduce our defence members.

The best thing about being in the military is we don't have a union we have leaders so why are we being told that if this bill passes we will end up with three ACTU directors. Our super fund should be governed by whomever we elect not who the government dictates who is to hold a position and how much pull they will have. Even every soldier knows the odds are stacked against you when your enemy out numbers you. But one thing our foes realises ANZAC will not lay down and die; we will fight and win.

In summary 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 that there will be three ACTU Directors, only two Defence Directors and five Directors appointed by the Minister for Finance. In my view this could, yet, be another step in the diminution of the traditionally accepted "uniqueness of military service" Despite all guantees and undertakings, history is replete with examples where Governments, for whatever reasons, change such arrangements for financial reasons. I am very concerned that, one day, military superannuants will be treated exactly the same as Commonwealth Public Servants and trade unionists.

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

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Giampino