

To whom it may concern,

After reading Slater and Gordon's submission to the senate in regards to the "DRCA" bill, it has brought to my attention the inadequacies of the proposed bill and the changes that will effect my personal claim for injuries acquired whilst serving in the Australian Army.

I am appalled that this bill has even been presented and feel that such a bill will cause more stress and trauma for myself and others, as the current processes have already caused extreme hardship and stress. If this bill is passed I feel that I will have no chance of my claim being completed in a timely manner. The last 9 months alone have caused me considerable hardship and stress and the last 29 years of trying to work and trying to deal with DVA, has taken its toll on myself and any family that have tried to help.

If DVA continues to move the goal posts, continues to find avenues to deny legitimate claims and continues to ignore the welfare of ex-service members, then the general public will learn that the Defense Force is not a career path worth pursuing and as such our Defense Force will ultimately fail to maintain a minimum number of personal.

You cant expect the defense of this country to be manned by personal if you ignore them after they have given there lives to this country, unconditionally. Who would waste there life if it equated to nothing, who would bother following a career with no possibility of a life if something went wrong? It would be better to work as a toilet cleaner at a service station with full protection against injury and disease than fight for this country and be dumped on the roadside when your service is over!

Signing on the dotted line will no longer have any meaning other than being treated like a foreigner in your own country that you have prepared to die for!

We have seen, in the past, the treatment of WW1, WW2 and Vietnam Veterans, and the woeful treatment they received when returning, lets not go down this path again and lets fix what is already broken. Changing the system to include more problems, like what happened with the previous Act change, is not the path to follow, it would be better for all to fix what we have and to think of the members themselves first.(is that not what DVA is meant to be doing anyway?)...

Regards

Kathy Webber