



27 February 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600 (E-mail : fpa.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir

RE: Senate Inquiry ; Draft Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010

I served for 36 years in the Australian Regular Army, always under the strong belief that my post service conditions (for which I contributed through my service) would be protected by a responsible Government of the day. This has proved, in recent times, to be totally false. The Matthews Report is but one example in which the Terms of Reference narrowed the result to the preferred (by the Department of Finance) outcome, notwithstanding the conclusions/recommendations of five previous inquiries. Now we are confronted with a draft Bill (Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010) that will, if passed, bring military superannuation under the same umbrella as other commonwealth employees.

To combine all retirement and superannuation schemes into the one basket would undermine the unique status of those who enlist in the Defence Force who sign away their basic rights to the Nation.

Military personnel, unlike their civilian counterparts, are required to take up arms and defend our country therefore putting their lives at risk more so than those who enter into other government departments.

This discrepancy and intermarriage of benefits is entirely out of proportion to those who do not have to place themselves in harm's way. Therefore to reiterate, it is an unfair proposal that would disadvantage those past members and future military enlistees who elect to serve in the Australian Defence Force..

Military service needs separate considerations and, as once stated by the current Prime Minister, military service is of the highest calling our country can ask of its citizens. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that our country employs and properly trains the right people to do what is asked of them (including the ultimate sacrifice) and then. It is the responsibility of governments to ensure these men and women are treated fairly during their engagement and well after the call to duty is completed..

This new proposal will be resisted by all ex-servicemen and women along with their family members, particularly where the proposed Board's composition of 10 Directors is three

ACTU members, five from Department of Finance and **two** Service members who would easily be out voted on matters addressing Service related issues.

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

I ask, as a concerned ex serviceman, that my views are bought to the attention of this Senate Inquiry and that receipt of this submission is provided prior to 5 March 2010

Yours Sincerely

Brigadier K R Philips AM Rtd
