

Senate Inquiry into TPI Compensation

For consideration as a published supplement to the Disabled Veterans of Australia Network submission No. 6.

Statements given by the Victorian TPI Assn. during the Hearing of 20th May last spoke to the method by which the KPMG Review into TPI Veterans Compensation came to be published (Nov.2019).

There were only two submissions made to the KPMG review, one from the TPI Federation and the other from our 'Network'.

In the 'hearing' it was said there were sixteen rewrites of the KPMG review before public publication, it was also said the Secretary Ms. Liz Cossens of the Department (DVA) e mail 'correspondence' with the President of the TPI Federation Ms. Pat McCabe asking for opinion and approval to the many rewrites. This 'correspondence' was distributed by Ms. McCabe and is in the public domain.

Our 'Network' was not privileged to see or have opinion or give approval on any of the KPMG review before final publication, not that we sought such leaving our submission to speak for itself. However, we did not expect the Department who contracted KPMG to carry out the review to be communicating our submission to a third party who are diametrically opposed to the 'Networks' position of equal compensation for all TPI Veterans and being asked for input while the review is being conducted.

We believe it would be helpful if the original understandings of KPMG (before opinion and approval) were provided to the Senators of this Inquiry as in your terms of reference include "all relevant existing information and previous reviews in relation to the TPI pension".

The 'Networks' concern as to interference by another at the behest of the Department into the KPMG review also extends to the 'Tune' review where again we were the only agency to make submission apart from the TPI Federation. Our submission to 'Tune' was the same as the one to KPMG. However, while KPMG mentioned many times the position of the Service Pension being Compensation as considered in common law and under Loss Insurance Industry practice 'Tune' never mentions this central contention to our understanding of equal compensation.

This is all the ‘Tune’ review had to say on the ‘Networks’ submission:

“The Disabled Veterans of Australia Network (DVAN) provided a written submission to the review. While the focus of the review is on the TPI Federation proposal, the review also considered the perspectives of the DVAN. The DVAN proposal is similar to the TPI Federation proposal but benchmarks the whole of the TPI payment (not just the AGR component) against after tax Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) for full time adults, which is a higher benchmark than the after tax NMW proposed by the TPI Federation for a component of the TPI payment. The increase in the TPI payment under the DVAN proposal is estimated to be around \$1,153.65 per fortnight, at a cost of over \$800 million in the first year and more than \$8.25 billion over 10 years”.

- The actual cost of the ‘Network’ proposal of removing the means test is sub \$250 million pa while TPI numbers will reduce by half by end of this decade.

“DVAN were given the option to discuss their proposal with the review team but did not respond prior to the finalisation of the review. However, the content of their proposal was clear and concise, and was considered in the development of this review”.

- ‘Tune’ officials had two phone numbers an e mail address and postal address, they also had the contact details of Ben Morton MP who forwarded our submission.

As the Senators also have the Tune review under consideration in their terms of reference, we legitimately ask what basis ‘Tune’ has for writing these extraordinary costings and untruths that we did not respond to their requests.

Best Regards
Frank, Jock O’Neill for
Disabled Veterans of Australia Network

DISABLED VETERANS of AUSTRALIA NETWORK

We served so you may live in peace and prosperity

