

4 March 2010

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

Dear Secretary

I write on behalf of a small number of retired regular Army Officers living nearby, all of whom served on active duty for our country in Vietnam and in other theatres of war. We wish also to represent the thousands of soldiers with whom we served over many years, not least those who died giving service.

We strongly protest the proposed *Governance of Australian Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010* and related Bills. Our general approach is (a) military servicemen and women offer unique, potentially life threatening service for their country for which they are but modestly compensated and (b) military pension schemes have been eroded in value and their value adjustment over the years compares poorly with that of other superannuation sectors, particularly that of politicians and civilian public servants.

Specifically:

1. We strongly reject the concept of merging civilian and military superannuation schemes.
2. Indexation of schemes must be equitable; currently it is not.
3. We vehemently oppose representation by trade unionists on the Board of any Authority dealing with military superannuation.
4. We believe the only fair way to evaluate military superannuation matters on an on-going basis is through an independent group or committee not dominated by civilian public service, union or political interests.

The least that is owed to those who have provided military service for the nation is a fair go that recognises that this is a unique form of national service. This is not presently the case and the effect will inevitably be worsened by the proposed legislation.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Black, AM (LtCol Retd)  
Peter Arnison, AC, CVO (MajGen Retd) former Governor of Queensland; current Chancellor QUT  
David Ferguson, AM, CSC (MajGen Retd) former Commander Multinational Force Sinai 1994-1997  
John Crocker, AM (Col Retd) Chief Engineer UN Mission to former Yugoslavia 1992-96, 2002-04  
Ken Lyons, (Maj Retd) former Professor, University of Queensland  
Graham Arnold, (Maj Retd) former Professor, University of South Australia  
Ren Hinton, (LtCol Retd)

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