

Dear Senate Committee members,

I am a retired soldier. I spent 39 years serving Australia in the Defence Forces, 20 years as a regular and 19 years in various Citizen/Reserve Forces. I served my country overseas for almost five years, including twelve months in Vietnam.

I have been in receipt of my military superannuation pay for the last 22 years. I contributed 5% of my military pay to my military superannuation fund for every year of my regular service. The remainder was MY condition of service, not a gift from anyone!

I received a DFRDB pension of just 21,000 for the last FY, which has fallen significantly behind aged pensions over the life of my pre-paid, in cash and service, superannuation pension. I am even significantly further behind what ex-members of parliament receive their retirement pension over the same period. But that is another story, thanks to Mr Tanner!

I proud to have done what my country asked of me, for thirty nine years.

But what I will not tolerate is my pension management being passed to people who do not understand the unique and special nature of military service. I, and very very many like me, offered my live to this nation for the long term good and well being of the Australian Nation. Thank goodness our younger generation are still willing to also do so, ALL that our Government asks of them. It can have very costly and permanent consequences, life, physical and mentally. I know that I need not convince you of that.

The concept of having three union officials 'caring' for my interests is NOT acceptable. I can remember what the 'unions' attempted to. They were happy to deny our essential supplies when I and so many others like me, were in a war zone in Vietnam, just to mention one combat zone! A panel of a RAN, Army and RAAF persons selected from the ex-service community would be a start, on that aspect alone.

The proposed changes will NOT be more efficient despite, what Mt Tanner might try to say. There is ample evidence of that before you already. Then take Mr Tanner's performance on the ABC QandA program last month to get my concept and massive concern! Mr Tanner has clearly demonstrated that this is not about my and my ex-comrades-in-arms welfare, it is about cutting corners and services to those who have served their country. Others, more qualified that I can provide you with the logic and proof.

Please, just leave MY MILITARY superannuation management in the current system, that has provided me with some basic security over the last twenty two years. I have lost enough already, in so many ways!

Hilton Lenard
very concerned citizen