



## RSL SALISBURY SUB-BRANCH

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24 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make a submission to the committee on **The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions]**.

Since I have been doing this job as a Veterans advocate, I have noticed that any time that legislation is changed, it is always to the detriment of the end user or the little people.

One point or issue that should be addressed is that previously TPI or EDA veterans under the VEA – on their passing – was that the Widows were given their own Gold Card and a War Widows pension automatically. There seems to be no mention or address to the widows who have also suffered with returned War veterans and the adjustment/PTSD mental health and or physical problems that their husbands endured.

While currently under MRCA, **if it can be proven**, that a returned veteran or former serviceman (or women) dies of his/her injuries, a widow/er **may** get some compensation, and this would involve a successful claim, unlike TPI or EDA where it was an automatic process.

A provision that should be made is that for all Returned War Veterans that are TPI or Special rate Disability, as opposed to Former service men and or women that have not gone to a promulgated war zone, that the spouse is granted a Gold Card on the veterans passing and the option for a war widow pension or make a claim for compensation.

I have assisted a few widows and they are beside themselves at the time of passing of the veteran and for some, it can be years. The last thing they need is to be put through the wringer in making a claim and proving that the vet died of his service related injuries, when in reality- they have suffered long enough.

Thank you for allowing me to make a submission.

Sincerely

John Miklavcic  
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