



Submission No 2

**Inquiry into the Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured
on Operations**

Name:

Withheld

Inquiry into the Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured on Operations

Submission

1. History of _____ case
2. Compensation delays
3. Inability to discuss the case with Veterans Affairs in Townsville
4. Update veterans affairs to deal with present day issues

Our eldest son _____ has been proudly serving with the Australian Army for seventeen years. During this time he has attained the rank of Sergeant and has been deployed to Timor twice and Afghanistan. While serving in Afghanistan in November, 2009 he and a young private were injured by an IED.

_____ had his right Femur shattered; the young Private received a shrapnel wound to his groin. Both were in severe shock. They were lucky to be alive.

However, this was just the start.

Intensive treatment followed in Afghanistan, Germany, and then back to Townsville Military Base Hospital. With continued surgery and rehabilitation which _____ is still receiving to date. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was finally diagnosed over six months later, hearing loss due to the accident and also a loss of nerve and muscle control in the bowel (resulting in uncontrolled bowel movements). He has recently had surgery to treat this debilitating condition which has not been successful.

The young Private (anonymous by our request) has returned to duty and received over \$100,000 compensation paid out within a short period of time from the accident. Please note we do not begrudge this young man his case finalised.

After waiting for 3 years [redacted] has only just received \$45,000 for his leg and hearing loss but nothing for the PTSD or Bowel problem.

WHY is it taking so long to finalise his case and let him and his wife and children who have been so supportive get on with their lives?

There is no person to speak to about [redacted] case in Townsville Veterans Office he had to contact a person in Brisbane who has never met [redacted] Personal contact is vital in these cases and being able to set a rapport between Veterans their families and the case managers at Veterans Affairs Offices is essential. A lack of communication between Defence & Veterans Affairs is occurring leaving Veterans and families not receiving the support they are entitled to require.

We wish to advise the immediate medical care of [redacted] injuries is not the issue here. The medical care given in the field from Tarin Kowt & Kandahar, the long flight back to Australia and the Military Hospital at Townsville was exceptional.

Many injured Veterans are having to seek legal help and advocates from the RSL to help them finalise & assist them with their individual cases. This is added stress and cost which should not be happening.

We feel the ongoing care and treatment through Veterans Affairs needs to be updated and the whole outdated structure thoroughly investigated.