



Submission No 14

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

Name: Name Withheld

Organisation: Private

I would be happy to comment further on this issue.

My Name is _____, I served with the Australian army from _____ till _____, when I was medically discharged.

I was posted to the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, as a rifleman at the age of 33.

I deployed to Timor Leste and Afghanistan back to back.

While in Afghanistan I took a heavy fall, while on patrol, and carrying around 40kg of gear. I was seen by my medic and continued on my tour.

On return to Australia it was found I had some back and shoulder problems which turned out to be quite serious- and meant I could no longer serve in the Infantry.

I put my paperwork in to change corps to Intelligence, and was encouraged to do so.

During this time I developed PTSD as a result of my two deployments.

My paperwork to transfer was lost during this time, so I submitted it again.

I found the management of my career and injury's at this stage appalling. No one cared, helped or even counselled me on what to do. I was expected to simply wait with the other injured members and basically do nothing.

I managed to get a transfer to the battalion intelligence cell, which I thought would be good work experience for moving to Intelligence Corps. I made sure my situation was conferred to the officer in charge in the Battalion Intelligence cell.

This turned out to be another waste of time, "work experience" turned out to be "arts and crafts" jobs like laminating documents and finding "the right coloured paper" for a Book the commanding officer wanted made- which took over a week of driving around Brisbane (in my car –my petrol) getting paper samples. Pretty intelligent stuff.

Return to work arrangements and management for personnel who can return to ADF service

I found this terrible, counter-productive and a waste of money. CRS employees did nothing to help, and you only heard from them when it was time to sign their contract forms so they could get paid.

Management of personnel who cannot return to ADF service

As I couldn't get any feedback on what was happening with my career or paperwork, and with a worsening case of PTSD, I was offered a Medical Discharge.

I was put on Medical Leave while my discharge was started.

During this time it was found that my Paperwork had been comeback, and filed with me being told or any action taken. Part of the action was a meeting to discuss my career with my commanding officer- the paperwork reflected that we had this meeting- where in we did not.

During this time I had to report to the base hospital every 2 weeks- there was no follow up or other care provided. I was a soldier with PTSD and major depressive disorder was allowed to simply do nothing.

When my discharge was approved, again I was supposed to have a meeting with an officer to discuss the implications- I was told by a Sargent that the officer I had to see was away- and simply told to sign the papers and if anyone asked I had had the meeting with the officer.

transition from ADF managed health care and support to Department of Veterans' Affairs managed health care and support

When My discharge was processed- I received no help, counselling, or support from the ADF or DVA. If I hadn't pushed and submitted paperwork nothing would have happened. Although this may not sound bad- when you have a soldier- trained to kill people and blow things up- with PTSD and major depressive disorder left to fall through the cracks this not only presents a dangerous situation to the soldier, his family and the public.

Ongoing health care and support post transition from the ADF.

Due to care being provided via DVA white card- if your problem is accepted on you card the care is excellent. If you need to get more conditions accepted it can be hard to wait to go through the DVA claims system and jump all the hoops.

Signed