



**Submission No 9**

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

**Name:**                      **Name Withheld**

**Organisation:**              **Private**

**From:**  
**To:** [Committee, JSCFADT \(REPS\);](#)  
**Subject:** Defence care of injured soldiers on operations  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 August 2012 11:07:40 AM

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Dear Sirs,

I am a Defence force member of over 20 years service, I am also a Defence force member who has been kicked out of my job due to service related injuries.

My reference to your review is my left ankle, which was one of the main injuries that caused my forced leaving. I badly twisted the ankle in 2008 in Kuwait while transmitting to Afghanistan the next day. I deployed with a bad ankle and finished the rotation. On returning to Australia I continued to have problems with the ankle when running, walking and had it examined by a specialist, the result was an ankle reconstruction.

Ultimately, this injury plus back and neck injuries caused from being in a land rover that rolled in high range during pre deployment training for East Timor, had me kicked out of my job.

I still have pain in the ankle, more so when walking down steps but also when simply rotating it as well.

DVA has accepted liability but of course has not paid me one cent in any form of compensation for this permanent injury which is affecting my lifestyle and will only get worse as I get older. As well, they refuse to accept that it was done during "warlike" operations as they like to use any excuse they can find to not pay the fair and correct amounts and deem me being in Kuwait deploying to Afghanistan the next day not being in a war zone. DVA are a disgrace, as is your whole "compensation" system for defence personnel. You pay a pittance or in most cases nothing for serious long term debilitating injuries. DVA make sure they use doctors for their examinations that will give them the reports they want to hear so they do not have to pay any money.

The doctor I saw recently, even made negative remarks about our involvement in Afghanistan (he had a complaint made prior to me seeing him about the same thing - DVA was aware of it) and of course the report was poor in my favour. He even made comments on injuries he said he was not qualified to comment on and the DVA delegate referred to this in his determination, no surprise there, DVA will use any excuse they can find not to pay compensation. I could list dozens of other soldiers I know who have similar experiences.

Australia's population is 22,620,600 and the army is 47,135 (including reserves) so in other words only about 1 in every 500 of the population has the spine to do a hard, tough job that very few in this country will do and yet the 499 other people live their lives with a freedom the other 1 provides but he cannot even get the same scale of values and fairness the rest of the population receives. I'll end with this comparison, a colleague (another soldier badly injured who DVA has not paid a cent to) told me about a friend of his mother's who was in a car accident but was not injured and is still doing her

same job,has no ongoing pain as a result of the accident received \$90,000 in compensation,while me being in the back of a land rover that rolled and injured my back and neck which made me lose my job,cannot sleep without tablets due to the pain,cannot even sit in my couch and am forced to lie on the floor to watch T.V. plus a list of other problems from it,received \$46,000 from DVA only after I employed a solicitor to force that pittance out of them as they originally were not going to pay a cent.  
That sentence there should answer the title of the inquiry-defence do next to nothing,soldiers get nothing.