



Submission No 1

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

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Organisation: Private Capacity

13 July 2012

Re: Care of Defence Force Personnel

I am a recently retired Brigadier and Military Orthopaedic Surgeon who has had 41 years of service starting in the Regular Army in Vietnam as a Junior Medical Officer. I then remained in the part-time Force (Reserves) with considerable overseas active experience.

I remain Head of Service in Orthopaedics and Trauma at Modbury Hospital in the Public sector, and have also had my own Civilian practice for many years. In both areas have had the privilege of treating Veterans. Thus my experience has been treating those who put themselves in harm's way both on active service and home service plus Veterans. I have experienced the management of patients within the Force, the transition out of the Force and further care particularly under DVA as well as the other schemes. In past positions in the Military I have submitted in regard to Military Compensation Schemes.

All of the personnel involved in the Health process care, but it behoves us to evolve our bureaucratic structures to get the best out of the system particularly for the patient, with best value from the resources spent.

To that end I am more than prepared to be involved in your deliberations and my submission is based on the Military "Spot Check System" which is one of the basic lessons applied as a Commanding Officer. Having had three commands I am cognisant of its value.

I propose a number of State based "Flying Squads" to consist of possibly four Members of which at least three are Veterans.

My suggestion is the Squad consists of a Medical person, an Accountant, a Lawyer and one other interested person. The Terms of Reference set to allow a random spot check of any patient's journey and procedures to acknowledge success and identify if and where improvements could be gained.

The structure of this group I would leave open for exploration but the principles of "random spot check" would enable the Head of Department to gain information from "the frontline".

Many thanks for your consideration and progress if you see merit.

Yours sincerely

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