



Submission No 4

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

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**Organisation:** The Returned & Services League of Australia WA  
Branch Incorporated

**From:**  
**cc:** [Committee, JSCFADT \(REPS\);](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Wounded and Injured ADF Personnel.  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 August 2012 11:57:42 AM

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Morning Gentlemen,

Attached is our [WAVAC] submission to 'Joint Committee on Wounded and Injured ADF Personnel' for your action, as per NVAC Agenda 19 July 2012.

This document has been perused and approved by the WAVAC and Senior Officers RSL [W.A.] to go forward.

If you require any further information don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards.

*Denis Connelly*

*State Vice President / Editor The Listening Post*

*The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated*

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*ANZAC is an acronym, therefore should always be spelt in capital letters*

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Morning,

To Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Defence Sub-Committee

Attention: Senator Mark Furner [Chairman]

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

As per your request for submissions [media release 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012]. The Western Australian Veterans' Affairs Committee [RSL] [WAVAC] offers the following submission as a contribution for consideration for your committee.

This submission is as a result of deliberations from the RSL [WA] whose membership consists of currently Serving Service Members, Ex Service Members, and Officers of RSL Sub-Branches and Pension and Welfare Officers who donate their time and skills to the benefit of Serving Men and Women, Ex-service Personnel, War Widows and their families.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Denis Connelly, State Vice President /Chair WAVAC.

*Denis Connelly*  
*State Vice President / Editor The Listening Post*

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- \* Veterans may need assistance dealing with separation from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), for the first six months, as many of them have only known service life and never lived outside the ADF in recent times.
- \* DVA has proven Case Managers, but at times the member feels more comfortable talking about their problems with a serving member or ex-service members.
- \* There is evidence that there is an increase in mental health problems, resulting in more ADF personnel discharging with mental and other undiagnosed conditions.
- \* There is a problem with some members understanding all aspects of their Service Claims need to be recorded and documented prior to separation. Considerable support is required in this critical area of activity. This needs to be strongly enforced by ADF admin staff well before separation and not left to the individual to ensure it is done. CO's Hours which were formally part of this procedure should be encouraged.
- \* Families are to be made aware that the person who returns to them after deployment may not be the same person that joined the ADF. Family Liaison Officers need to be briefed on this requirement.
- \* Post separation families need a point of contact, within the ADF, to seek information about care. Such a requirements needs across the board consistency by Liaison Officers.
- \* Entitlements and avenue of appeals need to be explained. Formerly CO's Hours were helpful in this regard with individuals from ESO's (particularly the RSL) would address a large gathering of ADF Members and brief them on the system and compensation available to them. Suggest the RSL be nominated for this role through the advocacy programme.
- \* DVA is viewed by a lot of ADF members, as a hindrance to their claims being approved, and reluctant to discuss personal matters.