

A Submission to the Community Affairs Committee. This Submission Relates to Schedule 2 Partners Service Pension.

1. Introduction.

This submission is based on the experience and knowledge gained from dealing with many married veterans who have been through experience of separation.

The submission is a view not a policy of this Association as each case of separation is individual and the circumstances surrounding separation are many and varied.

2. Scope.

This submission addresses some issues that we have identified that the VVAA feels should be instigated to allow a discretionary determination in this process.

3. Issues.

- From our early understanding this amendment to Partners Service Pension is inflexible
- with no consideration of circumstance of the separation.
- There is no consideration of the duration of the time spent together.
- Consideration is not taken of the cause of separation.
- At this time there does not appear to be a right of appeal.

4. Recommendations.

- Some flexibility should be available to consider circumstances of separation.
- When a person has been in a long duration marriage or had been separated for some years before this amendment was introduced then that person should be considered to stay on this pension.
- Where evidence can be provided to satisfy that the cause of the separation was the veteran's accepted conditions that caused the separation the pension should continue.
- Decisions in relation to this pension should have a right of appeal.

5. Conclusion.

As stated this is the view of this Association not policy. This is an area where opinion is divided and each person involved in a separation will have a different view.

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