



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

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Inquiry into administrative review of veteran and military compensation and income support

Terms of Reference

On 19 June 2003, the following matter was referred to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report.

The options and preferences for a revised system of administrative review within the area of veteran and military compensation and income support, including:

- a) an examination and assessment of the causes for such extensive demand for administrative review of decisions on compensation claims in the veterans and military compensation jurisdictions;
- b) an assessment of the operation of the current dual model of internal review, Veterans' Review Board/Administrative Appeal Tribunal, its advantage, costs and disadvantages;
- c) an assessment of the appropriate model for a system of administrative review within a new, single compensation scheme for the Australian Defence Forces and veterans of the future, including compensation claim preparation, evidentiary requirements, facilitation of information provision and the onus of proof;
- d) identification of policy and legislative change required to amend the system at lowest cost and maximum effectiveness; and
- e) an assessment of the adequacy of non-means tested legal aid for veterans, the appropriateness of the current merits and its administration, and options for more effective assistance to veteran and ex-service claimants by ex-service organizations and the legal industry.