



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence



Mr Richard Griffiths
National Secretary
Regular Defence Force Welfare Association
PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604

14 JUN 2007

Dear Mr Griffiths

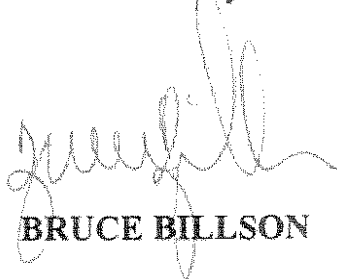
Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2007 to my Defence Adviser, Mr Cameron Hooke, concerning the eligibility requirements for reversionary spouse pensions in the military superannuation schemes.

The bill to provide for a change to the eligibility requirements for reversionary spouse pensions payable under the *Defence Force Retirement Benefits Act 1948* and the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973* will be introduced in the current session of Parliament along with other Budget measures.

The legislation will not be retrospective in effect. Once the legislation is passed, departmental representatives intend to consult with the Department of Finance and Administration regarding the possibility of Act of Grace payments for cases arising between the 2006 Budget announcement and the passage of the legislation.

I trust this information will clarify the situation for you.

Yours sincerely



BRUCE BILLSON