



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

**“FAIR GO!” CAMPAIGN
PHASE 2
UPDATE 2/2011 – 7th JUNE 2011**

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The Senate Committee Enquiry’s Recommendation

The [Senate Committee recommends](#) the Senate **not approve the Bill**. The dissenting report by the Coalition members recommends otherwise.

We need to recall that it was Senator Xenophon who referred the Bill to the Committee “*for appropriate inquiry, so that all aspects of the bill, including the fiscal impacts, can be explored*”.

The Committee’s Report has failed to do that and has simply accepted the DoFR’s costing (forward estimates of \$175M over four years) over those submissions from the Coalition \$98M, Peter Thornton \$112M, and ours of \$86M. Surely, this disparity would have invited a detailed analysis by the Committee, especially in light of the former Minister for Finance, Lindsay Tanner’s admission of the “dark arts” practice in his book “Sideshow” and reported on in his article in the [Weekend Australian 30th April -1 May 2011](#).

Noting that the Greens member of the Committee, Sen. Rachel Seiwert, voted against it we asked the Green’s Leader Bob Brown for clarification of their policy and was told by email from his office of support for us. But the following day we received this from the same office:

“Sorry for the confusion. There has been some miscommunication. Please disregard the previous email. Our position remains While we support fairer indexation, we remain concerned about the cost and that the Government needs to be on board to fund the measure.”

The Bill will be voted on in the next Senate sitting 14 -24th June.

Government's Opposition based on Suspect Costing?

We believe that the Government's opposition to this Bill and fair military superannuation indexation *per se* is based on its acceptance of suspect costing, from its Finance Department. Why are those costs around double everybody else? Finance does not expose its assumptions to scrutiny.

We have data that challenges their costs and have sought a meeting with the PM to present our case.

Senators Fielding and Xenophon hold the Balance

Given the Green's position and the Government's opposition on the basis of costs then the Bill's successful passage through this Senate sitting is reliant on the two independent senators, Fielding and Xenophon. From the 1st July the situation changes when the Greens will hold the balance of power with nine senators.

It is crucial for us all to continue our lobbying activities as requested in Update 1/2011. Your letters and personal contacts with these Senators will reinforce the direct lobbying activities we are doing in Canberra.

Supportive Action in the House of Representatives

Meanwhile in the House, the Coalition's Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel, Stuart Robert MP has been successful in having the House pass his Private Member's Motion regarding fair indexation and the unique nature of military service. Read the [Hansard report](#) that reveals the Government's objections.

Read the subsequent [ADSO media release](#).

Although the House's support for this Motion is a significant development we need to understand that it has little direct influence on the passing of **The Fair Indexation Bill** in the Senate. If the Bill is passed there then the Government can still use Section 56 of the Constitution (Recommendation of Money Votes) to avoid it becoming law and can oppose it in the House of Representatives.

Sign the Petition

Ewen Jones MP (LNP) Member for Herbert (electorate centred on Townsville) has initiated a petition to The House of Representatives to have the benefits adequately indexed. It calls on the House to consider and pass the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010 to ensure that the 'unique nature of military service' is recognised through military superannuation arrangements. Read the [Explanation](#) and [Sign the Petition](#)

Continue your Lobbying

It's critical to continue your lobbying activities, whether they be supporting the Petition, writing letters, making phone calls, sending emails or faxes or most importantly visiting your local Member of Parliament, Senator or Government Minister in their electoral Office: even if they are not present leave your message of support for the Bill with their staff.

Stand To

Watch this space

Regards,

Ted & Kel
Campaign Directors