



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

“FAIR GO!” CAMPAIGN

PHASE 3

UPDATE 3/2011 – 12th JULY 2011

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An Act of Bastardry

Thursday the sixteenth June 2011 is a Day of Infamy.

In an act of bastardry the Government, with the complicity of Greens' Senators Brown, Milne, Hanson-Young, Siewert, Ludlam, and Independent Senator Xenophon, who had all publicly supported fair indexation, voted down the DFR(D)B Fair Indexation Bill. [Read the Hansard report \(pages 1-20\)](#)

The House of Representatives, just two weeks earlier unanimously agreed to support fair indexation of military superannuation pensions. (Read our media release Senate [rejects](#) Fair Indexation Bill.)

If the Government and Greens supported fair indexation in the lower house why did they reject it in the senate? We can think of no conduct that could be more duplicitous.

Bayoneted Again

The Defence community has been bayoneted once again!

The anger can be seen in the articles and comments reported both to us and publicly through the current affairs web site [Independent Australia](#) (IA) where the matter is being exposed to the wider Australian community.

Our serving men and women are awake to the financial impact that this decision will have on their families in their retirement and even worse on their widow/widower. They know that a CPI indexed pension does not keep pace with the cost of living. They don't like it and are saying so through their social media networks. The last line of Rudyard Kipling's poem [Tommy](#) is still relevant today for the ADF;

“An’ Tommy ain’t a bloomin’ fool -- you bet that Tommy sees!”

A Second Front Opened

A letter from Retired Brigadier Neil Weekes AM MC to the PM Gillard, Senators Wong (ALP), Brown (AG), Lundy (ALP) Xenophon (Ind) and Opposition Leader Abbott posted by Tess Lawrence (a journalist advocate) on the IA's web site under the heading [Diggers V Gillard](#) has been a catalyst for others to speak out.

As an independent voice Neil has opened a second front “People Power” to our Fair Go Campaign. He is working with us to achieve the same objective. Neil is no johnny-come-lately: he has been involved actively in veterans' matters for over 17 years and is a member of DVA's Prime Minister's Advisory Council on veterans' matters.

Neil's sitreps are posted within the following

- [Exclusive ‘Diggergate’ continues: ‘The March for Justice](#)
- [Diggergate Campaign: A call to arms](#)
- [Independent Australia Campaigns for Diggers....and gets bigger](#)

Keep the momentum going by having your say and posting it to this web site!

Actions on the Front Line

With the Coalition's legislative thrust stymied by the Government and its Green supporters, we now move into our next phase of direct action.

Can We Trust The Government's Costs?

NO! Read why [here](#) in our paper “Can You Trust What the Government Says?” We challenged the Government to rebut our cost analysis that shows fair indexation is affordable.

The Department of Finance & Deregulation (DoFD) at a meeting in Canberra on Tuesday 28 June did not reveal its full cost assumptions and calculations. DoFD senior staff said they had followed all the Government's financial conventions in their costing analyses. Our view that their figures are possibly irrelevant and certainly misleading fell on deaf ears.

Indeed, is Lindsay Tanner's admission of the "dark arts" practice in his book "Sideshow" and reported in his article in the [Weekend Australian 30th April -1 May 2011](#) at work here?

We believe so and that the Government (DoFD?) is using financial data slanted for its own benefit. For example our first year cash cost of less than \$20M paints an entirely different picture to the alleged \$6B over 45 years!

We have asked the DoFD to clarify their costing.

Will the Government offer us access to an independent authority to examine the matter?

Request to Meet with the PM

Following our meeting with the DoFD staff we wrote to the PM requesting a meeting with her. Read our letter [here](#). We await a response.

Indexation - Frequently Asked Question.

Read the FAQ [here](#) It will help you understand the matter and become an advocate for our cause.

Tribute to the ADF

A very proud digger's wife, Leesa Williamson, has produced this video. You can see it at [Do You Support Me?](#)

Media Support?

A media briefing package has been sent to the national media news editors/chiefs of staff for TV current affairs programs, press and radio, asking for their support in reporting to the Australian public this unfair treatment of the Defence community. It includes the "Can You Trust The Government's Quoted Costs?" paper, the FAQs and the letter to the PM.

See, read and listen to your local media and be prepared to add your voice to our cause.

To date there has been some response through the press (The Australian) and radio. Neil Weekes' personal activities have created some worthwhile traction. On TV's Sixty Minutes (17/07/2011) Peter Harvey's mailbag printed an email about our issue in response to the disabled diggers segment from the previous week's show. It was the last email at the end <http://sixtyminutes.ninemsn.com.au/>

If the media fail to report the matter then we may need to initiate our own reportable events through all available means, particularly in the marginal electorates.

How you can Assist

In each State/Territory and in the marginal electorates we have **Local Action Groups** who co-ordinate our activities. We want to expand our presence to be a continuous influence felt in all Federal electorates. Here's how you can assist;

- a. **Become a Volunteer.** Join our action groups. If you are a DFRDB recipient or a contributor to a military superannuation scheme then we need you and your family's support. Even if the issue does not touch you personally, but you believe in mateship and caring for the defence family then join us.
- b. **Donate** to assist to keep the Fair Go Campaign going.
- c. **Sign up** to be **Kept Informed** now.
- d. **Contact your local member of parliament.** We need politicians and the public to know that we have a just cause and that we will not go away. It is critical to continue by contacting politicians, by writing letters and making phone calls. Letters should be registered [it does not cost much] to ensure that they are received and opened. **Emails are fine but** there is the danger that they will be ignored and/or deleted. **Remember that** if you don't get a reply from the politician within four [4] weeks send another letter and demand a reply and not a 'form response.' Remind the politician that he/she works for you but do not be abusive or use inflammatory language.
- e. **Attend public meetings.** These are an opportunity to ask questions on fair indexation e.g. ***"If CPI is the right indexation formula why isn't it used for MPs?"***
- f. **Use talk back radio.** Ring in and ask a question. If it is not talk back and he/she gives a questionable statement then ring the radio station and record your concern: similarly with a TV station.
- g. **Keep a record** of all your dealings with politicians and keep your State Action Group informed.

Help Us

We want to prepare a number of human interest examples of people on military superannuation who are doing it tough on their unfair DFRB/DFRDB superannuation pension. If you are, or any person you know is, please tell me Ted Chitham, tchitham@bigpond.com . All correspondence will be strictly confidential and not given to any other person without their approval.

Keep Informed

For the latest information log onto the following links:

www.dfga.org.au Fair Go Campaign

www.rar.org.au Advocacy

<http://www.independentaustralia.net/category/defence/>

<http://www.standto.org> The Stand To site is currently under construction and is expected to be on line by 18 July 2011. It will be the central communications centre and depository of all information both past and present related to the ADSO "Fair Go!" Campaign

What we Want - Reminder

All we want is an indexation regime that again protects our military superannuation pension purchasing power, and that the present Age pension indexation regime does no more and no less than just that, we want the Age pension indexation regime.

Our DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS superannuation payment is NOT A WELFARE PENSION.

We all contributed compulsorily to our own superannuation scheme while in uniform. The Government for its part said that our superannuation pensions would have their purchasing power protected. We kept our side of the contract; the Government has not kept its side.

The Government, morally if not legally, is in breach of its contract.

Thanks for all your support

All for one and one for all.

From the "Fair Go!" Team

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