



## ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

### “FAIR GO!” CAMPAIGN

#### PHASE 4 DIRECT ACTION

UPDATE 4/2011 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

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**VOLUNTEER**

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**KEEP INFORMED**

*Campaigners,*

*Thanks to you all for your support and a welcome to our new supporters. In this report you will read, hear and see that our Direct Action Phase is having an impact both with the public and with the Parliamentarians. And there are more direct actions to come.*

#### **1. THE “BATTLE” LINES ARE JOINED**

Since the Senate’s decision to deny the Coalition’s Fair Indexation Bill, our Defence Family has vigorously condemned the Government. The Battle Lines are drawn and our strategy is

to wage the campaign on several fronts. These include direct communication with Government and the Opposition (letter writing and face to face), use of all available media (TV, radio, newspapers and social media networks), increasing public awareness and building support, and increasing active participation within the Defence Family.

The Government, bunkered down by other competing events, did not respond to our letters in a meaningful way. Any letters in reply were in a template format with an attachment full of spin that is both misleading and deceitful. See them exposed at <http://standto.org/updates/>

- **ON RADIO:** The Hon. Dr Mike Kelly MP (ALP, Eden-Monaro) was the only polliie willing to raise his voice above the parapet to talk on radio 2CC (Canberra) [podcast](#) 7 July 2011. In that interview he blamed others and said little about what the Government actually intended to do about fair indexation.

Kelly's comments ignited the ire of many veterans, including AVM Peter Criss (ret'd), an Eden-Monaro constituent, and Brigadier Neil Weekes (ret'd) ADSO's Second Front leader.

Neil responded to Kelly's comments on the same radio station 2CC on 13 July. Listen to it [here](#)

Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Peter Criss (ret'd) entered the fray being interviewed on Sydney radio 2UE [31 August 2011](#) and again on [15 September 2011](#)

David Jamison was also interviewed on 2UE on 1 September. After the interview David Oldfield agreed to monitor developments to keep the issue alive.

- **ON TV: ABC's TV VICTORIA PROGRAM 7.30 REPORT ON 22 JULY 2011:**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-22/war-veterans-campaign-for-better-pensions/2806974> covered the matter during which Defence Minister Stephen Smith said Bill: *"The Bill (Fair Indexation)... If passed would have seen the taxpayers of Australia fork out billions of dollars"*

The Minister knows that this is a blatant misrepresentation of the truth, and we know it too. [Read](#) our press release questioning Minister Smith's comments.

- **BY LETTER IN EDEN-MONARO: MIKE KELLY MP and AVM PETER CRISS:**

In this exchange you get the story of what we are fighting for.

1. [Peter Criss](#) wrote to Kelly 8 July 2011 about the Fair Indexation Bill rejection
2. [Kelly replied](#) 25 July 2011
3. [Criss replied](#) 3 August 2011

Air Marshal [Jake Newham](#) (ret'd) also wrote to Kelly.

These supporting letters add to the many already posted [here](#) and in letters to newspaper editors.

- **IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PRINT MEDIA:**

In general, the national Press have been comparatively slow to respond to our media releases, although the [Sydney Sunday Telegraph](#) has picked up on the story and run supportive articles, including comments from [General Peter Leahy \(Ret'd\)](#) and Peter Criss. There have also been several articles and letters published in Regional newspapers.

It seems that the national media are concentrating their reporting efforts on the many, in their view, higher priorities news items.

• **BY SOCIAL MEDIA**



Social media has gone viral with our issues within the Defence Family and passing their concerns to their wider friends within the Australian public. If the media are reluctant to report our issues as presented to them then the social media may encourage their interest. So please continue to use all your networks to spread the message.

**2. MEETING WITH KELLY MP AND SENATOR LUNDY**

Following the direct criticism of the Senate's decision and particularly Senator Kate Lundy's (ALP) duplicitous act of speaking against the Fair Indexation Bill while previously "acting" as our supporter publicly and in caucus, she and Mike Kelly met with ADSO and SCOA representatives to explain the Government's opposing position and their own continuing efforts to win support within the Labor caucus.

The Bill was opposed because it was seen as divisive by not including other superannuates: DFRDB under aged 55; the current Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme; and the Australian Public Service, and also because it was considered fiscally irresponsible. The Coalition's cost offsets were deemed inadequate to meet the Government's assessment of the full costs involved and were counter to the Government's fiscal policy to return the Budget to surplus by 2012/2013.

Now here is a pretty picture. The Bill referred to DFRDB **only**, yet the Government sought to widen it to include the Australian Public Service employees and produced a cost analysis that they now refuse to reveal its assumptions and calculations for public scrutiny. Lindsay Tanner's book see [Weekend Australian 30th April -1 May 2011 article](#) casts a huge shadow of doubt over any calculations presented by Government Even Bob Brown may agree – it is after all part of the Greens policy to implement a Budget Assessment Committee as used in the USA to verify policy costings. **Incidentally, the Department of Finance and Deregulation have still to provide us with their DFRB/DFRDB costings. We are told again that they are coming.**

The Kelly/Lundy duo proffered that there is growing support in caucus and that they had now generally accepted the case for fair indexation, and that it fits in with Labor values. This is a change from their position two years ago.

We believe that the Government is seeking ways to solve the issue which now appears on their radar. But a proposal is unlikely before May 2013 (Budget month and the year of the next scheduled election). What can we make of that: another promise to "fix the matter" or is this a self survival tactic? Sir Humphrey Appleby would indeed be pleased.

[DFWA's latest Update](#) has some very interesting articles, not the least being the widespread rejection of the Government's ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement offer to the ADF of an increase of just 3% pa over the next three years. This is less than the CPI (the measure of inflation) and **“here we go again”** less than the cost of living. A similar offer to Defence civilian employees was also widely rejected and so what we will now witness is the trade union movement “fighting” for its civilian members using all its persuasive tactics (incl strike action); and the Defence Remuneration Tribunal considering the issue on behalf of serving members.

Defence has recently advised that it will reconsider its offer. In the meantime the DFWA will continue to seek serving members' views. DFWA will present its case to the Tribunal later this year and to assist it recently took on board an Industrial Advocate for its representation to the Tribunal.

### **3. REQUEST TO MEET WITH THE PM**

Our request to meet with the PM to discuss our concerns has been denied a second time. What's that sporting saying about three strikes and you're ...?

### **4. OPERATION LETTER RAID**

As a show of strength to the Government's intransigence, thousands of your registered letters were posted to Parliamentarians at Parliament House to arrive on the opening day of the Parliament's winter session. Those letters made it very clear that we wanted fair indexation, we will stand firm with that resolve and we expect a reply to those letters.

Was it successful? It's hard for us to measure. Anecdotally, we heard of large cartons (mail bags?) being delivered on Tuesday 16/08. An interesting observation was the PM's late notification Wednesday 17/08 to attend the Vietnam Veterans' Day Service the following day at the Vietnam Memorial. Just a coincidence?

The [replies from Labor Parliamentarians](#) and [here](#) are trickling in. As expected they are template letters with a highly questionable *fact* sheet: see our rebuttal [here](#)

Replies from the Coalition Parliamentarians are quicker and restate their policy in Government to legislate Fair Indexation. A copy of their letter is also revealed [here](#)

If you have not received a reply to your letter, send another to demand it.

### **5. STAND TO**

The ADSO's “FairGo! Campaign's web site [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org) site is operational.

**Check it out.**

There, you can keep current with our progress, make a comment and tell us your story of how the unfair indexation affects you. Support us [here](#): **volunteer** to join our Advisory Group and Action Groups; make a **donation** and, **register to be kept informed**.

Through the web site, social media and other means we will promote our campaign and expose the untruths of any matter about us and our issues by any Parliamentarian, political party, organisation or person

As a supporter you become the eyes, ears and the voice of our Campaign. Within **every** Federal electorate we will have an **Action Group** that will promote our campaign to the elected MP and the community. Our Action Groups are already established at the State and Territory levels and in the marginal electorates. **Come and join them!**

In all electorates, particularly the marginal ones we can influence the sitting MP.

## **6. OUTSTANDING GROWTH**

The Senate's rejection of the Coalition's Fair Indexation Bill has awoken the Defence Family to action. Spurred on by Neil Weekes' opening the Second Front and his media presence, the growth in supporters registering their interest, particularly from the serving men and women and their families has been outstanding. Each person is an advocate for the cause.

## **7. 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 [tchitham@bigpond.com](mailto:tchitham@bigpond.com) . All correspondence will be strictly confidential and not given to any other person without their approval.

**Urgent. We need a volunteer to be our Standto Webmaster. Please contact [tchitham@bigpond.com](mailto:tchitham@bigpond.com)**

## **8. CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR CHANGE**

Welcome to Ray Gibson (RAAF & DFWA Qld) who has replaced Kel Ryan as my fellow Director. Kel has moved to Cairns. But he is not lost to the Campaign: he is now our Registrar and Action Groups Co-ordinator.

## **9. WHERE TO FROM HERE?**

The next election is potentially two years away, but of course, it could arrive sooner. Our human and financial resources are limited, and we need to pace ourselves to ensure we have the capacity to ramp up our efforts whenever an election is called.

Meanwhile, our strategy aims to keep the indexation issue alive by focusing our efforts on increasing public awareness and support, reminding all politicians we are not about to fade away, and to generate further support from the Defence family (both serving and former members and their families).

To achieve the aim, we will continue to employ all means available. For example:

- We have further flyers/posters under development (following behind the Sea Patrol Flyer) which will be distributed both virally and physically.



- We will continue to encourage journalists who are willing to write factual newspaper articles.
- We will actively seek out further opportunities for radio and TV interviews.
- **We will be releasing hard hitting video clips for distribution through you tube and other social network media such as this one on [YouTube](#) from an ADSO supporter Peter Criss.**
- We will issue press releases and write letters at appropriate times.
- We will place ads in selected print media.
- We will develop other campaign promotion material. For example, see the item below on Car Stickers.
- We will engage in other proven influential activities as practised by other Major Interest Groups as necessary.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP US**

- Register your details on the standto website to **keep informed and/or volunteer.**
- **Donate** to the campaign fund through the standto website. It is only with your financial support that we will be able to place advertisements in newspapers etc.
- When you receive new information about the campaign and flyers etc, pass them on to all your contacts, both military and civilian. This is the only way we can achieve an effective viral campaign.
- When indexation articles appear in newspapers, write a supportive letter to the editor, or place a comment on the relevant weblog of the newspaper. Similarly, after listening to a radio or TV interview, send supporting comments to the station though the relevant weblog or by email. This is an effective way of telling the editorial mangers that there is interest in and support for the story which will encourage follow-up stories.

## **10. VEHICLE STICKER COMPETITION**

We will be producing a vehicle decal/sticker to further promoting the Campaign. Enter our **sticker design competition**. The rules are simple:

- the size of the sticker approx 20 cm x 6.5 cm to allow them to be easily posted,
- the message must be related to the Fair Go Campaign for fair indexation,
- nothing offensive, rude or obscene,
- have ADSO and [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org) featured on the sticker,
- entries will close on 20 October 2011,
- the winning entry will be judged by the Fair Go Management Team,
- the winner will receive an appropriate prize.

So get those creative juices flowing and come up with a simple, catchy and effective indexation message that can be printed on a vehicle sticker. Send your entry to Ray Gibson [storyweaver@interndode.on.net](mailto:storyweaver@interndode.on.net)

### **AS A FINAL REMINDER - WHAT WE WANT**

All we want is an indexation regime that again protects our military superannuation pension purchasing power. 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.**

**Please note that in future, our Updates will be posted to the website. We will tell you by email.**

### **WHO AND WHAT IS ADSO?**

Visit <http://standto.org/about-us/>

*Thanks campaigners for your continuing support. Stand To!*

*From the "Fair Go!" Team*

*Campaign Directors: Ted Chitham [tchitham@bigpond.com](mailto:tchitham@bigpond.com)*

*Ray Gibson [storyweaver@interndode.on.net](mailto:storyweaver@interndode.on.net)*

*Campaign National Spokesperson: David Jamison [Jamison@bigpond.com](mailto:Jamison@bigpond.com)*

[www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)

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