



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations¹ Calls for Much Needed Measures in the Budget as Defence Compensation Woes Continue

The Association today submitted budget proposals for FY 2011/2012 on behalf of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations². In it the Alliance calls for Government action to:

1. Provide fair indexation of all Military Superannuation Payments;
2. Abolish Military Superannuation Benefit Scheme Maximum Benefit Limits (MBL) as recommended in the 2007 Review into Military Superannuation;
3. Adjust the Veterans Disability Pension Rates in line with the adjustment of Age and Service Pension single rate in the 2009/10 budget; and
4. Remove the Unfair Balance of Legal Resources against Veterans at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Along with the items in this submission we await the outcome of the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements examining the adequacy and suitability of military rehabilitation and compensation arrangements including perceived disparities and inequities between legislative schemes.

It is eighteen months since the Government announced that a steering committee was appointed and had commenced its consideration of almost 50 submissions from the service and ex-service communities on the matter of Defence Compensation.

In the meantime, serving members and veterans continue to suffer. Recent media reports have highlighted the fact that soldiers who suffer repeated wounds or injury on frontline service are being denied fair compensation under assessment arrangements used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, because compensation provided for a previous wound or injury can cancel out entitlements for a later one.

This is a major anomaly and it needs to be resolved. Wounded serving and ex-service members need urgent and positive action from the Government to remove this injustice.

<i>Media Contacts</i>		
Executive Director: Les Bienkiewicz 0411 444248	<i>www.dfwa.org.au</i>	National President: David Jamison 0416 107557

¹ The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA); the Naval Association of Australia (NAA); the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARAC); the Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA); and the RAAF Association (RAAFA).

² Available on the DFWA website www.dfwa.org.au