

## Looking After Your Interests

The Royal Australian Regiment Association recently joined the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) at the national level. Our two Associations are now working to build closer links between DFWA State Branches and the RARA State and Battalion Associations. The main advantage in doing this is that we can align our interests and cut out duplication of effort in those areas where our interests overlap, without in any way reducing the independence of either organization. DFWA lobbies politicians, Government Ministers and Departments, and the Australian Defence Force on issues that affect the serving and ex-serving men and women of the ADF.

You will recall in the Spring 2009 edition of "Duty First" that the Association's National President, Major-General Hori Howard (Ret'd) called on the Australian Government to reverse its decision on the indexation of military superannuation. Issues surrounding military superannuation, whether the DFRDB or MSBS, or whatever new scheme comes over the horizon, are a major focus of DFWA, and we have been relentless on the issue of indexation.

DFWA has a broad mission, and that is to look after the interests of serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. This includes Reservists by the way. We keep our eye on changing policy from government and the Defence Force that impact on the conditions under which members of the ADF serve; how that affects them now, and how it affects them after they leave.

Breaking that into principal roles, they are:

- advocating improved conditions of service all ADF members
- campaigning for fair and equitable treatment and retirement benefits for former ADF members
- providing advocacy services on behalf of serving and retired personnel who have a claim on government under various pieces of legislation covering superannuation, compensation and veterans' entitlements

We conduct research across a raft of issues in these roles and provide input into the many reviews conducted by government that affect members of the ADF.

DFWA is structured very much as the Royal Australian Regiment Association is, with a national office in Canberra and branches in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and the ACT. South Australia and the Northern Territory are administered by the ACT branch, while Tasmanian members are administered by the Victorian branch.

We know that our serving soldiers, sailors and airmen are rightly focused on the job at hand and being the best they can at it; not too many think about the future after the Defence Force. DFWA is thinking about that future, and we can give you advice on superannuation and retirement/separation issues and we can help you with compensation claims. As our main activity is getting bad policy changed, we need a strong and active membership. To ensure we have the resources needed for our work, we encourage you to join us as individual members in addition to your membership of the RAR Associations.

For a membership application and instructions, and more information on DFWA, have a look at the Association's comprehensive website [www.dfw.org.au](http://www.dfw.org.au).

For a membership application and instructions, and more information on DFWA, have a look at the Association's comprehensive website [www.dfw.org.au](http://www.dfw.org.au) or contact the relevant DFWA State Branch as follows:

**NSW:**

122 Moore Park Road, Paddington, NSW 2021

[nswbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:nswbranch@dfwa.org.au)

**QLD**

Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Enoggera, QLD 4051

[qldbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:qldbranch@dfwa.org.au)

**VIC**

H Block Victoria Barracks, 256-310 St Kilda Rd, Southbank, VIC 3006

[vicbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:vicbranch@dfwa.org.au)

**ACT**

GPO Box 2272, Canberra, ACT 2601

[actbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:actbranch@dfwa.org.au)

**WA**

PO Box 3072, Kingsley, WA 6026

[wabbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:wabbranch@dfwa.org.au)

**SA & NT**

SA and NT are administered by ACT Branch, and Tasmania is administered by VIC Branch, although members in those areas are free to join any Branch they choose.