



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MILITARY RETIREES WELCOME FIRST STEPS TO A FAIR GO

After having fought for a 'Fair Go' for many years DFWA, along with its partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), welcomes today's news that the Government will finally introduce legislation next week in line with its pre-election promise to restore fair indexation of DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions, at least for those aged 55 and over. The proposed Bill will apply to reversionary and invalidity pensioners 55 and over as well.

Thus far, military pensions have simply not kept up with the cost of living. By indexing these pensions in the same way as age pensions are indexed will, at least in part, remedy a serious inequity that has existed for over 20 years.

In commending the Government, DFWA acknowledges that it is only a first step towards remedying all remaining inequities. A remedy must be found for the under 55 DFRB/DFRDB recipients, and for those who fall under the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme. The scheme is the current one that applies for men and women serving at this present time. In each case, their disadvantage remains profound.

DFWA welcomes the Government's agreement to on-going consultation on these and other issues of concern to both the serving and veterans' communities. DVA Disability pensions fall into this category. Finding equitable solutions to them in due course is the aim.

Contacts

Executive Director:

Alf Jaugietis (0438) 282 284

www.dfwa.org.au

National President:

David Jamison (0416) 107 557