



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL OFFICE

A member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

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MEDIA STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT OFFERS OFFSETS-FREE ADF PAY RISE

Memories quickly fade but no one should forget how emphatically, in 2014, ADF members rejected the Defence/Government agreed offer to them of a 1.5% per year increase in their pay. Unbelievably, that Offer was to be offset and funded by a range of what was termed at the time as 'required productivity initiatives' that included removing from members some previously approved leave provisions, and downgrading several other conditions of service.

Given the overwhelming rejection and severe disappointment that was expressed by the serving community to the offer, the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) strongly opposed it in a submission to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT). DFWA's position was that the Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) should at least match the movement of the 'Employee Living Cost Index' not just inflation to maintain real purchasing power of ADF wages. Anything less represented a pay cut to ADF members.

To prove that lessons of the past can be learnt, it is with some satisfaction DFWA learned that the Government and ADF have agreed to present to the DFRT a proposal that the next three year WRA for the ADF, commencing November 2017, will give ADF members a 2% pa wage increase for each of the next three years.

DFWA welcomes the news, particularly as it seems in line with or a little ahead of the 'Employee Living Cost Index'. Critically, this proposal will require no offsets and no degrading of any conditions of service or other entitlements that ADF members hold dear.

DFWA considers the offer the minimum considered reasonable, given the current economic environment. However, before submitting its formal position to the DFRT later this year, it will seek the opinions of its ADF members in order to better inform the DFRT.

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