

MEDIA STATEMENT  
26 APRIL 2012:  
RELEASE OF STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS

Today marks a significant development in our veterans' battle for fair indexation of their superannuation pensions.

Ex military chiefs and corporate figures have joined forces in a call for action by issuing a Statement of Support to all media outlets.

Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott, Christine Milne and Warren Truss, are asked to announce that all forms of military superannuation pensions will receive the same percentage increase twice yearly, as is applied to the age pension, and that the DVA disability pension be fully restored.

The Statement includes a graph which demonstrates years of neglect and powerfully shows the precarious financial position of many of our veterans.

The statement is signed by retired Chiefs of Navy, Vice Admiral David Shackleton AO; Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AC; and Air Force, Air Marshal Jake Newham AC. They are joined by Gina Rinehart and many corporate figures.

This level of support will give veterans a much-needed boost in morale, in a battle that is now at least a decade and a half old.

The addition of many senior corporate people from across the spectrum is a welcome display of support from the Australian community.

The print and broadcast media have also given a voice to veterans, who now know that their cries from the wilderness of retirement are heard.

It is to be expected that soon they will no longer have to endure the depressing cycle of ever decreasing purchasing power of their superannuation, including invalidity and reversionary pensions plus DVA disability pensions.

*Gina Rinehart*

Gina Rinehart

*Peter Criss*

Peter Criss

The Full Statement in Support is attached.

<i>Media Contacts</i>		
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## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

### A FAIR GO FOR VETERANS

We willingly and wholeheartedly support Australian veterans in their campaign for a fair go.

We urge that you interpret the graph attached, which clearly shows that the military superannuation provisions for our veterans have declined substantially. The issue cannot be ignored any longer.

This invitation also extends to Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Leader of the Liberals, The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Senator Christine Milne, Leader of the Australian Greens and Leader of the Nationals, The Hon Warren Truss MP.

We join with the veterans of Australia to request those mentioned above to demonstrate by the end of May 2012, sincere bi-partisan agreement to solemnly declare that:

“We have come together in the spirit of true and sincere bi-partisanship to announce that from 1 July 2012 all forms of military superannuation pensions (DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS, including invalidity, reversionary and preserved) will receive the same percentage increase twice yearly as is applied to the Age Pension and that the DVA disability pension be fully restored.

We are pleased to address this important issue, and we pledge to pass the legislation to enable this change to indexation to be implemented.”

The above action would redress justice and equity issues so clearly evident in the accompanying graph.

A Fair Go, so fundamental to the Australian ethos, is owed to all our serving and ex-service personnel. They did their duty honourably. Let us, as a nation, now fulfill our obligation to them.

Please urge your local Member of Parliament to give this their immediate support.

Vice Admiral David Shackleton AO (Retired)  
Chief of Navy, 1999-2002

Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AC (Retired)  
Chief of Army, 2002-2008

Air Marshal Jake Newham AC (Retired)  
Chief of Air Force, 1985-1987

Charles Copeman  
President of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (Former)

Greg Poland  
Executive  
Strzelecki Holdings Pty Ltd

Mrs Gina Rinehart  
Chairman and Director  
Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd

Ron Manners  
Chairman  
Mannkal Economic Education Foundation

Tad Watroba  
Executive Director  
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David Flanagan  
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Mike Young  
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Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)  
Managing Director  
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Dennis Morris  
Avian Mining

Greg Anderson  
Managing Director  
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Wen Trading Pty Ltd

Tony Mack  
Great Southern Cross

Alexander Downer  
Former Foreign Minister of Australia

John Goldsworthy, Cdec QLD  
Flight Lieutenant (Retired)  
Royal Australia Air Force

Harald den Hartog  
Independent IT Expert

Leo King  
Member Liberal Party (Vice) Glen Huntly Branch  
Member Foreign Affairs, Defence and Veterans Policy Forum Liberal Party

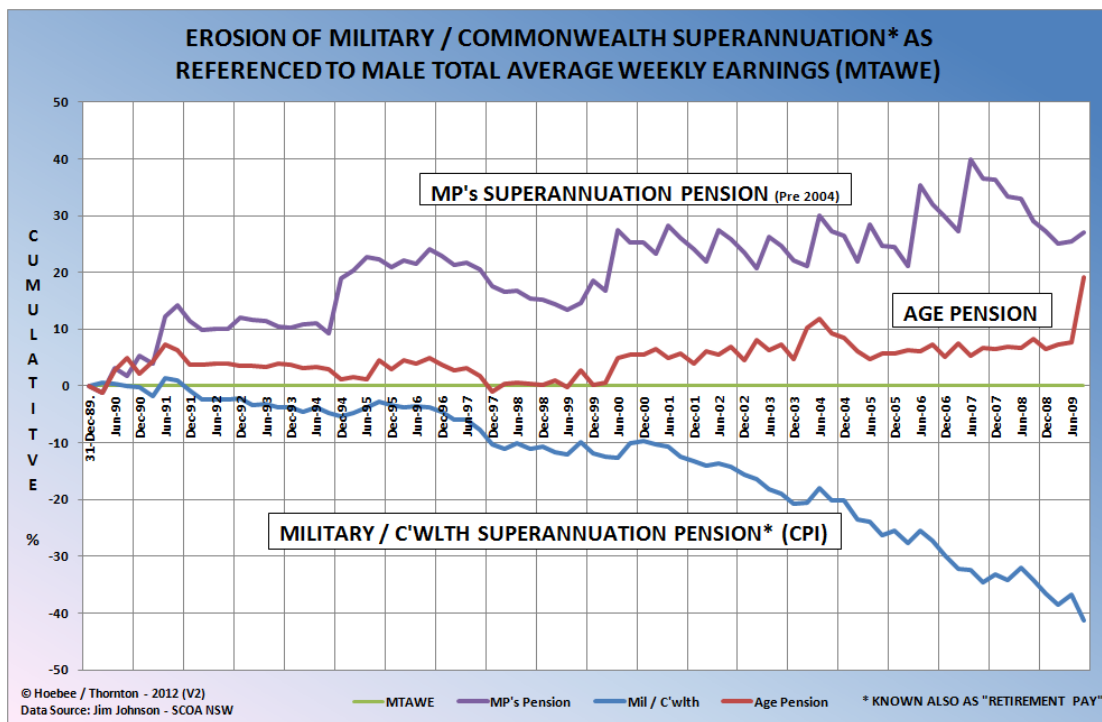
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Graph supplied by Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA)

Note: In this graph Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) are the base constant against which are shown the relative cumulative percentage increases or decreases, over time, of the several classes of Commonwealth pensions.