



Australian Government

Mr Terry Meehan
State President
Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland)
PO Box 629
SPRING HILL Qld 4004


Dear Mr Meehan,

The Government has delivered. We made a promise to veterans and their families and we have kept it.

Today the Senate passed the Government's legislation to give Defence Forces Retirement Benefits (DFRB) and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) military superannuants aged 55 and over the long-overdue fair go they deserve.

Thursday, 27 March 2014 is a day of fairness.

The passage of this legislation means that, from 1 July 2014, DFRB and DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over will have their pensions indexed the same way as age and service pensions.

In the House of Representatives on Tuesday night, 21 Government members spoke in support of the fair indexation legislation, compared with just three Labor speakers. The amendment moved by the Independent Member for Denison, apparently on behalf of the Palmer United Party, would have only removed the age 55 qualification from the Government's Bill, not extended the Government's fair indexation provisions to all military superannuation schemes as has been suggested in the public. The Government opposed these amendments because they are unfunded and, in the current economic climate, unaffordable.

This legislation is a \$162.2 million investment in fairness. It represents this Government's commitment to recognising the unique nature of military service.

Thank you for your advocacy for this cause.

Yours sincerely,

SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for
the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

THE HON STUART ROBERT MP
Assistant Minister for Defence

27 MAR 2014



Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

The Hon Stuart Robert MP
Assistant Minister for Defence

Thursday, 27 March 2014

MINVA018

A FAIR GO FOR VETERANS - DELIVERED

The Abbott Coalition Government has delivered its election promise to 57,000 military superannuants and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, and Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, today welcomed the passage of the *Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014* through the Senate, giving effect to the Government's commitment to give veterans a fair go.

"Thursday 27 March 2014 is a day for fairness. Today, the Government fulfilled its pledge to give veterans a fair go. We made a promise and we have kept it to the letter", Senator Ronaldson said.

"From 1 July 2015, Defence Forces Retirement Benefits scheme (DFRB) and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB) military superannuants aged 55 and over will have their pensions indexed in the same way as age and service pensions. The fair indexation provisions will also extend to reversionary (widow) pensioners aged 55 and over."

"This has been a long fought campaign for equity, justice and fairness, by the entire veteran community across Australia. The Coalition promised our veterans a fair go before the 2010 and 2013 elections and now we have delivered our promise."

Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, said that from 1 July this year military superannuants and their families would benefit from the change in indexation arrangements.

"The passing of this legislation today confirms this Government's recognition of the unique nature of military service and the sacrifices military personnel and their families make on behalf of all Australians."

"This legislation is an investment in fairness and will ensure the purchasing power of DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions is maintained."

"By passing this legislation today, veterans and their families have finally been delivered the fair go that they deserve, and that they were promised", Senator Ronaldson and Mr Robert said.

Media inquiries: Minister Ronaldson: Brad Rowswell 02 6277 7820 or 0417 917 796
Department of Veterans' Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203

Minister Robert: Richard Briedis: 02 6277 7730 or 0477 391 174
Defence Media Operations: 02 6127 1999

The Coalition's clear commitment to our Veterans

DELIVERED

PASSED BY THE SENATE ON 27 MARCH 2014

A Coalition Government will deliver fair indexation to 57,000 military superannuants and their families.

The Coalition will ensure DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions are indexed in the same way as aged and service pensions. All DFRB and DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over will benefit.

Only a Coalition Government will deliver fair, just and equitable indexation for DFRB and DFRDB pensions.

With your support, Australia's veterans and their families will get the fair go they deserve.



The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia



Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs