



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

**PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604**

25 July 2012

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I again write to you on behalf of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) and our partner organisations, the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association and the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia. ADSO has a combined membership exceeding 50,000 and represents the interests of serving and former members of the ADF and their families whose numbers run into the hundreds of thousands.

I wish to express our strong disappointment of the position you outlined in your answer to the question I put on military superannuation during the Google Hang Out with the PM broadcast held last Saturday 22 July 2012. I have to conclude you were poorly briefed on the subject of the question because your response contained both a number of serious misconceptions regarding the features of the various schemes in operation, and misinformation about them. For example, the recommendations provided to government and costs to implement a fair indexation regime were not correct. What your answer clearly ignored and about which we are most concerned was the fact that an employment contract provision has been unilaterally abrogated by successive governments, including the present administration. The opportunity to win the confidence of the wider defence family was also lost because of the negative answer you provided. I think that is most unfortunate.

The feedback we are receiving from the wider defence community is both vociferous and angry; there is a resultant rising level of frustration among military superannuants. The moderator exacerbated the feeling of despair with your response when she disallowed any follow up questions or discussion, particularly given that other questioners were afforded that courtesy.

We have made numerous reasoned and well-researched submissions to your Government to remove unfair military superannuation provisions, most if not all of which have been ignored or rejected. Because we appear not to have been able to have a constructive dialogue, we

resorted to placing our question on the OurSay site in an attempt to obtain a positive response from you as Prime Minister. We were overwhelmed by the support we received from the community who elevated our main question into second place in the popular vote. Indeed when all votes for replicated copies of the question are added to the total, we actually outpolled the first ranked question. The military superannuation question is the foremost issue of concern within the defence family. It is closely followed by concerns about the Veteran Disability Pension.

Our members and supporters continue to watch in dismay at the way your Government assigns a low priority in the allocation of funding to support to our servicemen and women compared with other Federal Government programs.

As a matter of some redress, the national leadership of ADSO seeks your personal attention and requests a meeting with you as a matter of urgency. Since that leadership will have gathered in Canberra on Wednesday 1 August for a meeting of the Ex Service Organisations Round Table, could we nominate that day to meet, subject to the contingencies of your own diary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Jamison".

Colonel David K Jamison. AM (Rtd)
Authorised Spokesman
Alliance of Defence Service Organisations