



Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

# UPDATE

## UPDATE 25 - A MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Issue 25 Dated 8

November 2012

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### Happenings in the Parliament

Since our last Update, the action has centred on Parliament House where in both the House of Representatives and the Senate military superannuation indexation actions occurred with increasing frequency.

**In the House**, (22-23 August) the Coalition showed its intention to carry out its pledge for fair indexation by trying to force a fair indexation amendment to the Government's Veterans Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The Coalition's amendment was debated extensively [here](#) and continuing [here](#) before being lost in a 69-68 vote. Voting against were Labor MPs including Craig Thomson, Green's Adam Bandt, and Independents, Windsor and Katter. Rob Oakeshott was not present in the House to vote. Andrew Wilkie voted with the Coalition. A full coverage of this activity was reported in Update 24.

**In the Senate**, on 12 September, the Coalition brought on a Matter of Public Importance (MPI) debate on "The Gillard Government's on going failure to deliver fair, just and unequitable of DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions." Read the debate [here](#)

This generated further ADSO activity with three short videos (Video 1: ZajLafD89qU

Video 2: ElWu49nUxsY and Video 3: Fq\_yNrex-sg) from AVM Peter Criss exposing Parliament's ongoing failure to



properly address this issue and the hypocrisy and ignorance of some politicians.

If you haven't already done so, please watch the videos, click LIKE and leave a supportive comment on the youtube page. Share the youtube links or forward them on to all of your Association networks and other contacts. And if you have a facebook page, please share the link there too.

**In the House** on 11 October, Rob Oakeshott's [Notice of Motion](#) to **consider** increasing military superannuation payments, received the House's unanimous support. That approval imposed no requirement on the Government to legislate a money bill. **What does that tell us?** As Rob Oakeshott explains in his [media release](#), "Only the government can introduce what is termed a money Bill (legislation that has an impact on the Budget), however, the unanimous support of 150 MPs in the House of Representatives sends a clear message to the executive government". **Does it?**

We recall Rob Oakeshott's similar motion in June 2010 that was also approved by the House with no ensuing legislative action from the Government.

Rob assures us that he will continue to push for a fair deal for veterans to be enshrined in legislation. We hope that means he will vote for some other Private Member's Bill (Bob Katter's) or next time submit his own Private Member's Bill.

**In the House** on 29 October, Bob Katter threw his support into the ring by tabling his [Private Member's Bill](#) that has been adjourned to a second reading which is unlikely to be debated before the 2013 sittings in February.

During the Parliamentary recess, all MPs will be at home in their electorates. This is our opportunity for our Local Electorate Action Groups to engage with them personally and with the local community and for you to become a volunteer with your local action group: contact me at [tchitham@bigpond.com](mailto:tchitham@bigpond.com) for details of your local action group co-ordinator.

## 2012 Report Card

How have each political party and independents addressed our call for fair indexation?

**The Government** stands steadfast in accepting the Matthews Report that CPI is the right indexation measure. It

Matthews report that CPI is the right indexation measure. It has shown no intention to date to change the CPI based indexation because, in the words of some Labor politicians we are "receiving what was legislated", military superannuation schemes are "generous", it's "too costly" and is not in the "national interest".

**The Coalition** has pledged that in its first budget in Government to introduce fair indexation for DFRDB superannuants over 55 years (but excludes Under 55 disability and reversionary persons). MSBS is also excluded until the Coalition says in Government it can assess the nation's financial position and its ability to afford it.

**The Green's** policy for fair indexation, although acknowledging the unfairness of the current situation, has not been supported by positive action.

**The Independents** support fair indexation but they are restricted by their commitment to support the minority Labor Government against unbudgeted money bills and no confidence motions. Their support is seen in moving and seconding motions to consider the matter. Bob Katter and Andrew Wilkie have taken positive action with Bob's Member Bill to introduce fair indexation.

## **Our Strategic Direction**

As we enter the election year, we will persevere and pursue our issues with increasing vigour and engagement, on a non partisan basis, with all Parliamentarians, political parties and the Australian people in the most appropriate way. 2013 will be a challenging year that will test our commitment and resolve. We need our defence family to make that commitment with us. Join us at [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)

## **Remembrance Day**

On Remembrance Day Sunday 11 November at the eleventh hour we pause to remember those who fought and died in service for Australia. At the same time we pay our respects to those who participated in those conflicts and to recognise that many too were and remain casualties of wars.

As well as honouring our fallen please help our living veterans and their families fight for justice.

(Gordon we need to embed this in the update as per the Muster flyer)

Please circulate the flyer to all your contacts, and post to facebook pages where possible. It is also a great idea to print copies and post them to appropriate notice boards in Clubs etc, where you have the opportunity to do so.

## **Operation MUSTER**

## **Support Needed**

You can help us in a number of ways:

1. As a SUBSCRIBER you will be kept informed of the Campaign's progress
2. As a VOLUNTEER you take the next step forward to join your Local Electorate Action Group promoting the campaign direct to your local community. You can choose the extent of your involvement from the tasks outlined on our [volunteer form](#)
3. As a DONOR you help to fund the Campaign. To expose the governments' unfairness of our military superannuation indexation payments and veterans' disability pensions we need every dollar we can raise. We have to be able to get ads on TV, radio and online to expose the true facts and better explain just how much is at stake for the defence families of current and past serving men and women and their

family of current and past serving men and women and their families.

Choose the amount and frequency of your donation [here](#)

4. As an ADVISOR you can guide us with your experience and expertise in a particular field associated with our Campaign, such as accounting, financial planning, superannuation, public relations, marketing, media, investigative journalism, legal, health etc.

5. Buy a Bumper Sticker and carry the message wherever your car goes.

Thanks for your support to the Fair Go Campaign to date.

## **Remember - You're the Voice**

From the "Fair Go!" Team

**Campaign Directors:** [Ted Chitham](#) , [Alf Jaugietis](#)

**Campaign National Spokesperson:** [David Jamison](#)

Stay current with the Campaign at [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)

This message was sent from Stand To to [tchitham@bigpond.com](mailto:tchitham@bigpond.com). If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, click [HERE](#).

*Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made. CHARLES BEAN, 1948*



**They honoured their commitment  
to the Nation...**

**This Remembrance Day,  
as well as honouring our fallen Diggers, please  
help our living Veterans fight for justice.**

**It's time the Nation, *through the Parliament,*  
honoured its  
commitment to  
Veterans.**



**Tell your Federal MP you expect Parliament to meet its  
obligations to our damaged and retired Servicemen and  
Women and their families.**

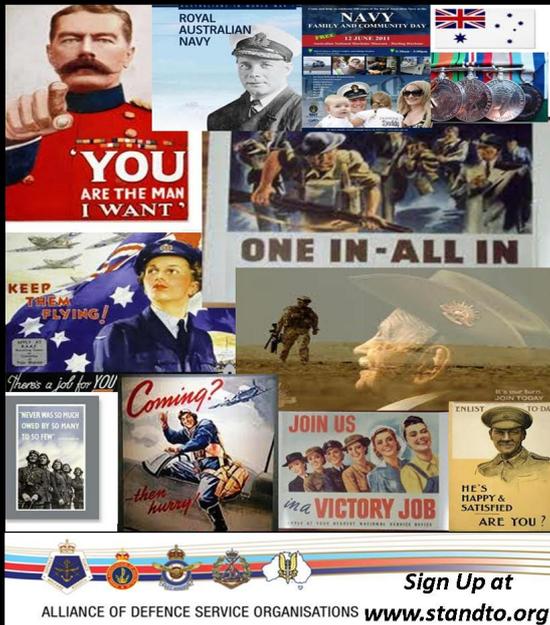
**Find out more at: [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)**



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

# OPERATION MUSTER

## MATES HELPING MATES



One of the principles of war is *concentration of force*. For ADSO, our current forces are too thinly spread and we need to increase our active forces in all States of the Commonwealth.

We call on YOU to recruit more supporters to help spread the ADSO message Australia wide.

### Our Challenge...

To at least triple ADSO/standto membership by 31 December 2012.

### Your Mission...

Get at least 5 mates to sign up to [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)

How? Call or email your Intake mates, squadron/unit/ship mates, classmates, family and friends and even your local politicians!... Rope in your mates in the RSL or other ESOs!

Apart from the personal satisfaction you will feel from a job well done, ADSO is offering a great prize to an existing supporter who 'signs up' the highest number of recruits.