



## ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

6 August 2012

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Launch of Operation AWARE 2**

### **Veterans Left out of the “Land of Hope and Dreams”**

The ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS wishes to announce the launch of 'Operation AWARE 2'. It represents the second phase of its public's awareness campaign to explain how unfair and unjust the Government has been to take no action to either fairly index Military Superannuation pensions to reflect the cost of living increases, or to restore Veterans' Disability Pensions parity.

The launch is timed as a lead up to Vietnam Veterans' Day on the 18th August, a day that will allow Australia as a whole to remember the contributions made by their country men and women in the Vietnam War. The day also marks the anniversary of Australia's most significant campaign in Vietnam - the Battle of Long Tan.

Will the Federal Government remember the Ex Service Men and Women who served in that war and perhaps other wars? Will that Government now consider treating them fairly? If the recent speech during his *John Button Lecture* by the Treasurer, The Hon Wayne Swan MP is anything to go by, indications are that it not only remains reluctant to do so but also is unlikely to restore any fairness to those who have served their country.

In that speech the Treasurer talked expansively about Labor Party values for a better Australia. He claimed to lead the fight for a fairer society for all; among numerous other claims he said he was determined that the whole community should grow together. He clearly did not think that Australia's military veterans should be included in his “Land of Hope and Dreams”.

How else to interpret the Treasurer's position when he recently went so far as to suggest that military superannuation schemes for retired veterans were “*generous*”? And that indexation of their pensions was “*fair*”. His comments were in response to an announced *cost of living* pension increase of just 0.1% or 47 cents a week for the average military superannuation retiree on less than \$25,000 per year. How does that sit with the “*old... sharing in the country's wealth*”?

**Operation AWARE 2** aims to highlight that no such ‘fairness’ actually exists. Thus, in this campaign there will be a focus on using Local Action Group Teams in all Federal electorates. Activities will include local community events, and advertising on TV, radio and print media outlets. Distribution of campaign materials such as the attached flyer will also be undertaken. Concurrent lobbying activities will continue with Parliamentarians of all political parties.

Please access the ADSO website for further information: [www.standto.org](http://www.standto.org)

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\* The Alliance comprises the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA); the Naval Association of Australia (NAA); the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC); the Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA); and the RAAF Association (RAAFA).

**THEY GAVE WHAT WAS ASKED OF THEM...**

**PARLIAMENT SHOULD GIVE**

**WHAT WAS PROMISED... NOW**



**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY PROVIDES  
A TIMELY REMINDER THAT:**

**MILITARY SUPERANNUATION PAYMENTS AND DISABILITY  
PENSIONS MUST BE RESTORED TO PROMISED LEVELS**

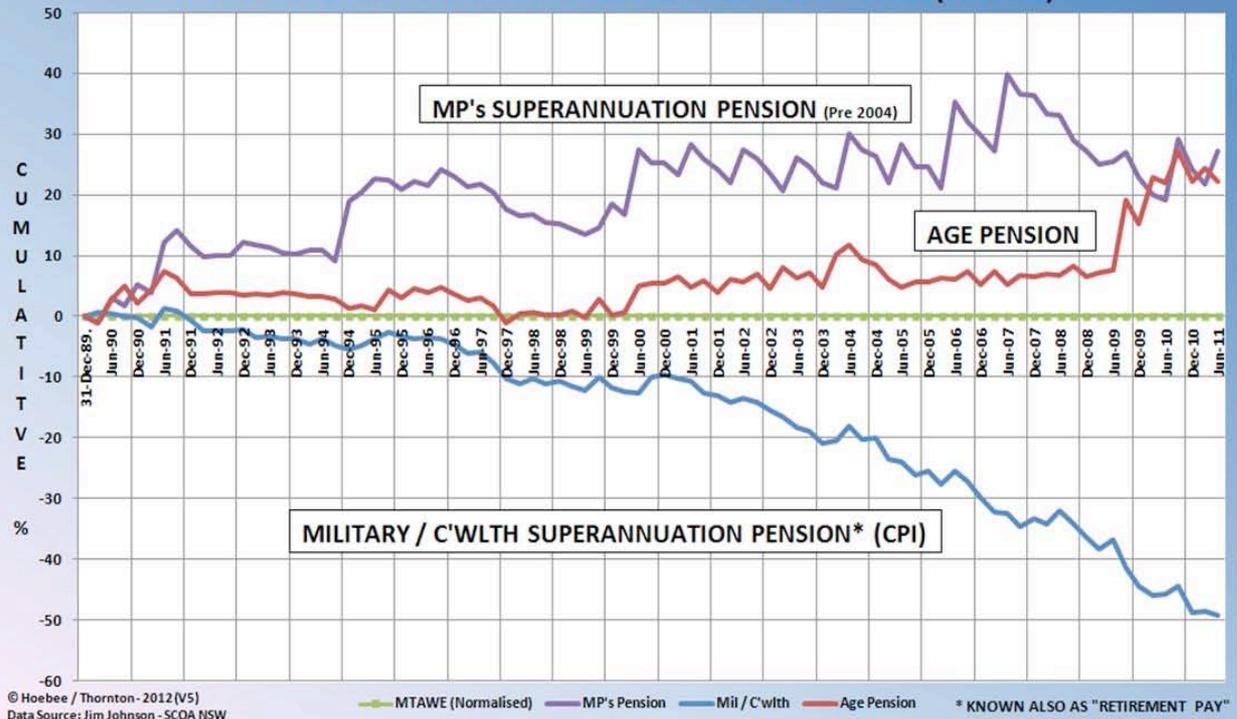
**WRITE OR CALL YOUR LOCAL MP OR SENATOR AND TELL THEM YOU  
SUPPORT OUR CURRENT ADF MEN AND WOMEN AND OUR VETERANS  
AND  
THAT YOU WANT THEIR PROMISED CONDITIONS OF SERVICE RESTORED**



**[WWW.STANDTO.ORG](http://WWW.STANDTO.ORG)**

**ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS**

**EROSION OF MILITARY / COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION\* AS REFERENCED TO MALE TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (MTAWE)**



ADF members had, and still have, a contracted condition of service that their *paid* for superannuation pensions would maintain purchasing power to keep pace with the cost of living.

Manipulation of the CPI over many years has eroded the worth of military superannuation—See Graph Above.

The contracted promise for pensions that keep pace with real cost of living increases must be restored...NOW, before the CPI is allowed to further undermine the meagre pensions of most military retirees.

**What We Want:**

The only way to achieve fair indexation is to ***adopt the same percentage increase as used for Age/Service pensions for all components of military retirement pensions (DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS) including the total reversionary pension for partners of deceased military superannuation pensioners.***

***We also want veterans' disability pensions restored to the promised rate.***