



ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS and PARTNERS

UPDATE 32

DRAWBRIDGEGATE

URGENT

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BREAKING NEWS!

With the election date looming large, ADSO has released a new video:

Election in the Crosshairs

This youtube clip poignantly shows the impact of Government policy on the military community, including past and present members of the ADF.

It also exposes the disability pension disgrace and details the policies on military super indexation for the four political parties that have announced their positions.

It is a video that will capture your interest from the start and we know you will want to share it with your friends.

We now need your urgent support to ensure this video quickly spreads to the wider community through viral circulation to all of your contacts. Please help us:

1. Click on the link [here](#) and watch the video ASAP.
2. Click **like**  and leave a comment on the youtube site.
3. Share this link with ALL of your email contacts and on facebook. (The video link also appears on the ADSO facebook page [here](#).)
4. Where possible, comment on the video in blogs and forums and in other discussions to keep raising awareness in the wider community.

This is our last chance to influence the thinking of voters in the wider community about matters of concern to the veteran community.

What a week for the Fair Go Campaign! It was dominated by National media coverage and the efforts of our supporters in the field. Here are some of the highlights:

Monday 19 August—[Minister Kelly MP interview ABC TV Breakfast Program](#)

Minister Kelly infuriated many veterans with his comments on this morning TV show resulting in a major backlash in mainstream and social media. A pre-recorded interview with AVM Peter Criss was also aired in the same program.

Tuesday 20 August - Queanbeyan Community Forum

Again in this Forum, Dr Kelly repeated his previous day's comments. We have asked Kelly to confirm his statements and correct the errors.

Wednesday 21 August [Peter Criss Radio Interview 4 BC](#)

Pete Criss revealed what the PM said at a meeting on 11 July in his office when reacting to the ADSO team's comment that his Government's military superannuation indexation policy was inadequate because it did not restore purchasing power:

"Don't bag us. If you do, we'll pull up the drawbridge and you'll get nothing."

With these words, the PM has alienated the Defence family and the Australian public. Their anger can be seen in the numerous public comments posted on the 4BC, ADSO and other websites.

The PM's 2007 promise to fix the indexation problem has now evolved to his 2013 promise of a crumb that will not restore purchasing power.

In a media release the same day, the Coalition called upon the PM to respond to the allegations that he had threatened our military veterans; [see here](#).

Friday 23 August the [Australian newspaper article](#) **"Outbursts become rude reminders of Kevin Rudd's past"**.

In this article, Peter Criss said he had been intending to stay quiet about the incident, but chose to speak out after becoming infuriated with what he termed Dr Kelly's "untruths" about military superannuation indexation during an interview with ABC News Breakfast's Michael Rowland on Monday.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said he did not accept Air Vice-Marshal Criss's characterisation of the meeting. The Prime Minister's Office responded that "The Prime Minister had a productive meeting with members of the Defence Force Welfare Association, including Air Vice-Marshal Peter Criss" and "The outcome of the meeting was that the Prime Minister agreed to support the next step of the DFWA's proposal for indexation and we look forward to ongoing constructive engagement with the DFWA on this matter."

Dr Kelly said the way Air Vice-Marshal Criss had characterised the meeting was "absolutely untrue". "He's basically saying that the Prime Minister was threatening," Dr Kelly said. "That's completely untrue. He was there to engage and support (the DFWA representatives) and they were very happy that they were there having the meeting. (Editor's note: This was the meeting promised by Julia Gillard in March)

"The only way he could have construed that was perhaps that we emphasised the importance of acknowledging the changes to the system that had been made by Labor."

Friday 23 August [Peter Criss Interview on 2GB](#)

In this interview with Ben Fordham, Peter reveals further details of the Rudd meeting.

Saturday 24 August. The Weekend Australian article [Veterans Campaign in Minister's seat over defence super indexation](#) reports that veterans' advocate, Peter Thornton, has written [an open letter](#) to candidates in the NSW seat of Eden-Monaro, highlighting what he says were incorrect statements made by Minister Kelly this week.

Video – [What About US](#) is a short, must-see video by Ray Martin that exposes the immorality in the way Governments have treated Australia's Diggers and their families (current serving and retired) through wilful neglect of their disability pensions and retirement incomes.

VETERANS DISABILITY PENSIONS

A Black Hole! For 130,000 veterans are still waiting impatiently for the Parties to advise their policies.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

We now change into top gear with a multitude of preparatory activities:

- 1. More national media coverage on the PM's outrageous drawbridge statement**
- 2. New Video Release - Election in the Crosshairs – See Breaking News.**
- 3. [Our Advertisement](#) Here is the advert/flyer for your use. Please distribute it to your network of family, friends and clubs.**
- 4. Our Ready Reaction Force. We need a few more volunteers willing to react at short notice to greet the Party leaders with our placards and medals wherever and whenever they appear in your local area. It's a great opportunity to make an impression. Contact tchitham@bigpond.com to join the RFF.**
- 5. Cartoons. Want some light relief? [Follow King Kev and his Merry Men](#) on the ADSO Facebook page and the standto website.**
- 6. Engagement with electorate candidates.**

You can help by joining your State Action Group and local electorate Action groups – [volunteer here](#)

As E Day nears the action tempo will increase. Make sure you keep up to date with the latest developments by visiting the standto website regularly.

[Thank you Australia for your support.](#)

From The Fair Go Team

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