



UPDATE 28 - The Wheels are in Motion

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The momentum has increased rapidly since the PM's early March venture into Sydney's western suburbs where, after a media report of her [snub to our veterans'](#) rally at Rooty Hill, she met with our rally Team (7th March) and promised to meet with ADSO leaders in Canberra. The Daily Telegraph followed up its earlier report with this [comment](#) from Miranda Devine.

Thanks to our Team of Bob Ihlein, Peter Thornton, Les Bienkiewicz, Vicki Chaney, Christine Dunn, Peter Hayes, Al Hind, Colin Alexander and Rod Given who were the front line "the tip of our iceberg" for our Fair Go Campaign.

Promised meeting with the PM

We are still waiting for a confirmed meeting date. Hopefully, the meeting is not to placate us but is a sincere effort to correct the injustices. Will it change the Government's current opposition to fair indexation? For a Government that prides itself on evidenced based decision making, we would expect a change of heart after we have had the opportunity to put all of the real facts directly to the PM in a face to face meeting.

If we find that we are being "led up the garden path" again, then it will be the final confirmation that the Government has failed us and we will take actions that we consider appropriate.

Mike Kelly will be part of the PM's Team because of his 2012 appointed task to consider the [Matthews' Report recommendation 4](#) and present any new proposal. Contrary to his public statements, ADSO has not been involved in working with him on the matter.

Means Testing Superannuation?



Previous suggestions from Labor's pre-election documents in 2004 and 2007 identify that the proposed solution may include some form of means testing. We are adamantly opposed to any such attempt to further erode our service conditions entitlements by the inappropriate use of means testing.

Reminder – Each Party's Policies on the Issues - Calculate your Financial Loss

The Coalition, in Government has pledged to restore the promise for military superannuation pensions under the old schemes (DFRB/DFRDB) for those aged 55 and over. This is a first step forward. Other military superannuants will have to wait until the budgetary situation becomes clearer. On veterans' disability pension parity they have agreed to discuss the matter after the election to determine the costs involved as the first step in addressing this issue.

So far, **Labor** remains opposed to any change to military superannuation pensions indexation or the restoration of veterans' disability pension parity.

There are over 200,000 military persons directly affected by one or both issues:

- Restoration of our superannuation entitlement to an indexed payment that maintains its purchasing power with the same percentage increase and frequency as granted to Age Pensioners. Read our summary paper [Military Superannuation Indexation – In a Nutshell](#). Then calculate your loss [here](#)
- Restoration of veterans' disability pension indexation parity to that legislated in 2007 and removed in 2009. Read our summary paper [Veterans' Disability Pensions – The issue in a Nutshell](#). Then calculate your loss: SRDPs = \$3,300 p.a., about \$1,200 p.a for 100% General Rate and pro rata for lesser General Rate percentages.

Our Recent Activities

Our Action Groups have increased their presence and promotions in marginal and other electorates especially where the politicians are conducting community events.

Community Cabinet Meetings

At the Perth meeting on 27 March , forty of ADSO's WA Team and WA TPI pensioners [rallied](#) successfully to voice our superannuation and veterans' disability pension issues. This was supported by 6 PR's Howard Sattler's interview of Richard Usher, ADSO's WA Leader, at the site.

At the Melbourne (Ringwood) meeting on 17 April we had a strong rally presence especially on the veterans' disability pension matter. Inside the meeting, David Jamison meet with the Defence Minister Stephen Smith to discuss our issues and reaffirmed with the PM her intention to meet with us.

We will continue our rallies at such events in other States. See the [event details here](#)

Defence Community Forums

The Shadow DVA Minister, Sen. Michael Ronaldson, conducts these forums in all States. We are present in strength to hear the Coalitions' policies as they affect the military and to have our say. We may not all agree with his Party's policies but we do have the opportunity to challenge and to influence them and others being

developed.

This raises the question: where is our DVA Minister Warren Snowdon? Why doesn't he conduct similar forums to confirm the Government's policy for veterans and listen to and answer our questions? You can ask him at Warren.Snowdon.MP@aph.gov.au or www.aph.gov.au/W_Snowdon_MP or on his facebook <http://www.facebook.com/snowdonmp> We have asked and await his reply.

Print and Radio Media

Since our Rooty Hill rally in March, the media's interest has been aroused. News Limited's Daily Telegraph and Fairfax Media Radio network 4BC, 2UE and 6 PR and Macquarie Network's 2 GB have taken an active interest in following the action and eager to report the outcome of the meeting with the PM.

Pete Criss continues his insightful commentary on radio often at very short notice. You can follow Pete from the [Newsflashes](#) that are posted on our website. If you miss the interview then listen to it on the podcast at the same site and then leave a comment or click the "like" icon. Listen to past interviews [here](#)

Petitions

To widen our superannuation issue to the Australian people we will petition the PM through www.change.org This is the same media used by [Avril Clarke](#) to successfully petition the War Memorial Council to recognise her son and other fallen peacekeepers equally. More on this to come soon.

Flyers

Our new flyer (Image - Fix Military Superannuation NOW!)



The flyer features a blue background with a white banner at the top containing the website www.standto.org and the text "ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS". Below this, the main heading reads "FIX MILITARY SUPERANNUATION NOW!". A photograph of a woman with red hair and glasses is positioned on the left. To the right of the photo, the text asks: "What more does it take to convince you Prime Minister?". At the bottom, it states: "It's not about 'generosity' ... It's not about something new..."

It's not about the Cost...

**IT IS ABOUT RESTORING WHAT WE ONCE HAD.
IT IS ABOUT FAIRNESS AND EQUITY,
AND THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL OBLIGATION
TO THOSE WHO SERVED AUSTRALIA.**

**Prime Minister, DO THE RIGHT THING
RESTORE fair indexation for
military super pensions NOW**

Find out more at www.standto.org

Use it for distribution to your network, especially facebook.
See all our flyers [here](#)

Snakes & Ladders – Election Version

For some light entertainment play our superannuation election version. Challenge your local MP to a game

Fair Indexation for Military Superannuation
Snakes and Ladders
Limited 2013 Election Edition

Rules:

1. Player One – Australian Parliament 226 members - three tokens
2. Player Two – Retired and Serving ADF personnel (plus widows, families and friends) has one token
3. Player One is allowed to control the game, use loaded dice, make up big numbers, and redefine terms like CPI, cost of living, Fair Go and may change the rules at will
4. Player Two may object about Player Ones' behaviour but if in doubt rule 3 is to apply
5. Gambling on this game is permitted however all winnings are to be forfeited to Player One and go into consolidated revenue

Notes

1. If you choose to be Player Two – be aware that Player One - to date - always wins! (See Rule 3). However as you were taught in your initial training – never, ever, ever give up!
2. Player Two - Take heart - every three years or so Player Two chooses who Player One will be! The day approaches...
3. Player One. If this wasn't so serious it might be funny. Hang your collective heads in shame...

Have fun!
Ray Martin

StandTo website

Make the most it for information and to have your say: write a blog, article and or a comment of your own or on what others have written. Watch the [Latest Video – Stand To Website Overview](#). It helps you navigate the site and shows how to maximise your use of it.

To keep current with the Campaign, visit it regularly. And do pass the articles, videos, flyers, radio interviews and press clippings to your family and friends via your own network especially on social media.

Rebuttal of Government's Letters

Many of us have written to our MP and /or Government Minister about unfair superannuation indexation only to receive a standard reply from the relevant Minister that denies unfair indexation and proffers how generous it is.

Well [here](#) is the Government's latest letter and our detailed rebuttal of it. Use it when replying to such letters or correcting any person that uses the same arguments against fair indexation.

Call to Action - It's Time to Stand Up and Advance to Contact

Until Parliament resumes on 14 May for the Budget announcement, when the Government reveals what plans, if any, it has to satisfy our objectives, we have a great opportunity to engage our local MP on our issues. We need to make them aware that our issues for the election can no longer be ignored.

All politicians, especially those in the marginal seats, will be sensitive to the issues affecting their electorates. **We want YOU to contact your local MP by any means and tell him/her the issues that concern you and the solutions you want.**

Join with your local ADSO Action Group or if you prefer, act independently to remind the MPs in the [marginal electorates](#) (view the Graphic: Labor's death row) MPs (less than 6%) of our voting influence with the fact that we have more aggrieved military and commonwealth superannuants and veteran disability pensioners than their marginal number. In 44 of the 150 Federal Electorates individuals on military and commonwealth superannuation benefits schemes (mcsbs) exceed the margin, in some cases by as much as double. For example in Michelle Rowland's (ALP) seat of Greenway NSW, there are 92256 registered electors of whom 4305 (4.67 per cent of the electorate) are mcsbs recipients: with her margin of 0.90% (830) votes, our 4305 number could have a major influence on the result in the Federal Election. 4305 does not include [Veterans' Disability Pensioners data](#).

Make a Donation - Dig Deep Diggers

We have the will to fight to restore our rights but we need your donations to help us do it effectively. That means having a war chest of money available to:

- promote the campaign with targeted, ads (all media) , flyers, handouts, videos and other material to targeted groups;
- mobilise our defence family and the public as supporters;
- lobby the Parliament and political parties;
- obtain professional advice and where appropriate

- fund legal actions.

THANK YOU to all who have previously donated and an anticipatory THANK YOU to all who are about to donate what you can afford. Dig deep diggers. Donate [here](#)

Anzac Day

On this iconic day, Australians commemorate those who served our nation in uniform and particularly those who died. In doing so, we recognise the Anzac spirit forged during the First World War at Gallipoli and the Western Front and reinforced in subsequent wars.

Charles Bean popularised the Anzac spirit with these words,
"Anzac stood, and still stands, for reckless valor in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat."

That spirit lives on with us in peace time.

"Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living" is The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (VVAA's) motto which ADSO's Fair Go Campaign fervently supports. Let's show the Government, the Parliament and all Australians that we are prepared to fight for our defence family's rights.

On Anzac Day wherever you gather together socially with fellow warriors and family, over a beer or around the BBQ, to recall service memories please include a comment on what the Fair Go Campaign is doing to support the defence family and encourage your mates to join us [here](#)

Thanks for your support

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