



Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc.

No. A0108026R

We represent the interests of Defence Force Retirees regarding their Superannuation

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DFRDB UPDATE – JULY 2024

My apologies for not producing an Update since January but I assure you that we have not been idle.

Who is ADFRA?

In recent times we have taken some flak about communication within our organisation and the slow rate of progress. We have also been accused of being “officer centric”.

We don't mind criticism but we always appreciate constructive suggestions.

It needs to be remembered that we are volunteers and spend considerable amounts of our time on research and trying to get through to our political masters what the issue is and what should be done about it.

We created a “warts and all” video during our last meeting which shows that we are not professional video producers. But the discussion will provide many with a better understanding of the DFRDB issues, who we are, what our objectives are, and the merits and moral bases of our argument.

To view the video, click on this link: [Who is ADFRA?](#).

Our quest for Fair Treatment is ongoing

We have sought greater support from the RSL through presentations to the RSLWA Board of Directors through the West Australian Veterans Advisory Committee, noting that the President of RSLWA is the Vice-President of RSL National.

We are in the process of drafting the amendments to the DFRDB Act we are proposing and are actively seeking a cross-bench Senator to introduce a Private Member's Bill to give effect to those amendments.

Weight of Numbers

As mentioned in the video, we need weight of numbers. So please register with ADFRA by clicking on this link: <https://www.adfra.org/reg.php>. It is free.

There is an upcoming election and we must get active politically active again. Write to your local Members and Senator and express your support for ADFRA's objectives.

Royal Commission into Veterans' Suicide

Herb testified before the Royal Commission into Veterans' Suicide (RCVS) and raised the effect that a sense of betrayal over their commitment to country could have on vulnerable individuals.

In response, he received a hand-written card which said:

Dear Herb

Thank you so much for meeting with us today and sharing your experience of the Defence Force, and in particular the impact of the Defence Force retirement and Death benefits scheme on not only yourself but the many other servicemen who were active during 1973-1991.

The transition to civilian life can be challenging when this is subsequently impacted by the GFC, this can become overwhelming for many ex-servicemen trying to find their role. You highlighted the despair and sense of betrayal that you and they have felt when you believed there was a lack of political willpower to amend the flawed legislation and ensure these ex-service men and women are no longer negatively impacted.

We commend you on your commitment and advocacy for this cohort of veterans, and wish you well.

CDDA Scheme Applications

For those who have taken an interest in Herb's application for compensation under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) scheme, Herb reports that, to date, 186 days after he submitted his response to to Defence Legal's decision, there has been no action by Defence, which is symptomatic of the lack of procedural fairness Herb alluded to in his response.

Herb is seeking support from Veterans Legal Services as suggested to him during his appearance before the RCVS.

Jim Hislop OAM

President