



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION
A member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)*

MONTHLY UPDATE #263 – 17 August 2011

UPDATE is a monthly news sheet produced by the Defence Force Welfare Association containing current items of interest to the Service and ex-Service community. It is widely distributed to Members of Parliament, media outlets, senior Service and Public Service Officers and DFWA members.

IS THE ADF PAY CASE SAILING INTO ROUGH SEAS?

The DFWA represents the interests of both serving and former members of the ADF and is vitally interested in promoting improved conditions of service for all ADF members. It has a solid history of advocating on their behalf to governments, departmental officials and as an intervener before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal.

Members of the ADF are subject to a Workplace Remuneration Arrangement (WRA) which sets their salary for the period of the Arrangement once it is approved by the independent Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT).

The next WRA for the period 2011 – 2014 is due to commence in early November 2011 and is currently being formulated by Defence Conditions of Service staffs on behalf of CDF. Unlike members of the Australian Public Service, ADF members do not have the opportunity to ‘vote’ on the proposed arrangement but CDF does ensure that the details of the arrangement are explained in a series of briefings on Defence bases and that an informal expression of opinion is sought. Additionally ADF members are provided with an opportunity to provide feedback directly to the staff formulating the arrangement.

DFWA supports these consultation arrangements and in its capacity as an intervener with the Tribunal has also invited ADF members to provide their feedback. To date the very significant feedback to DFWA is negative and clearly not in favour of the 9% pay increase over 3 years offer in the proposed WRA. The objections forwarded to us have two main components:

- An increase of 9% over 3 years is far below current and future Cost of Living Increases.
- The 9% does not provide tangible recognition for the productivity improvements being provided through the efforts of ADF members to meet Government directions to generate \$20B over 10 years.

DFWA will seek to represent the views of ADF members at the DFRT Hearing, to be held later in the year and will seek to present a case supporting a significantly enhanced offer that addresses these very legitimate concerns. In the interim DFWA will attempt to contribute to any positive amendments to the current WRA offer before its presentation at the DFRT.

ADF members are encouraged to continue to make their opinions known to both appropriate Defence staffs and to the DFWA. Comments to DFWA can be posted via the DFWA website or direct by email wra@dfwa.org.au

TV STAR JOINS THE FIGHT FOR FAIR INDEXATION

Ian Stenlake, the lead actor in the popular TV series *Sea Patrol*, has come out fighting in support of a fair system for the indexation of military retirement pensions. Ian said that through the role he played he had come to know some remarkable people who served in the Australian Defence Force, but was surprised to learn how poorly the “hard working Australians who have served their nation” have been treated in their retirement in terms of their superannuation pension and super payments.

Hi, I'm Ian Stenlake.

Working on the Sea Patrol TV Series was an exciting and enjoyable experience for me.

It was also very rewarding because I got to know some of the remarkable people who serve in the Australian Defence Force.

They are hard working Australians who are dedicated to serving their Nation no matter how tough the going gets; and for many of them, it becomes a career spanning twenty years or more.



But you may be surprised to learn, just as I was, how poorly these long serving ADF members are rewarded for their unique military service when they retire.

The average superannuation pension for military families is less than the couples' rate Age pension, and what they receive isn't adjusted to keep pace with the real cost of living.

Their pensions have fallen behind in value for the past twenty years because of inadequate adjustments for cost of living increases.

Australia's retired military veterans are seeking a FAIR GO. All they want is to have their superannuation pensions adjusted for cost of living changes at the same percentage rate as the Age pension.

How fair is that?

If you are as disgusted by their treatment as I am, **You Can Help.**

Contact your local Federal politician now, by letter or email, and express your opinion on a Fair Go for our retired Diggers. You can find out more at **www.standto.org**



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Media Contacts

Executive Director:

Les Bienkiewicz 0411 444248

www.dfw.org.au

National President:

David Jamison 0416 107557

* ADSO consists of the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), the Naval Association of Australia (NAA), the RAAF Association (RAAFA), The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC) and the Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA).