



Defence Force Welfare Association (SA Branch)

Insert for Camaraderie November 2014

This morning I read an article indicating that the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott is likely to bow to pressure and agree to restore ADF Christmas leave entitlements (News – Brisbane Times 30 November 2014). If true, it is good news and very welcome.

The 'pressure' that is referred to does not come only from political opposition, or public opinion. It also comes from the many activities and representations made by ex-service organisations. The Defence Force Welfare Association, in concert with our partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) and the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) members, including the RSL and Legacy, has provided professional and effective lobbying on behalf of members of the ADF and will continue to do so on behalf of all serving and ex-serving members, including our hard-working Reserve forces.

To remain an effective lobby group, representing those who cannot speak up for themselves, requires considerable effort by us all. For some this involves direct discussion and representation to decision makers, including our elected members of state and federal parliament. Our National President, David Jamison AM, the Association's Executive Officer, Alf Jaugietis and DFWA executives around Australia work very hard on our behalf to put our concerns to the Chief of Defence Force and the Service Chiefs. I want to express our sincere thanks to all those who work so hard in the interests of the welfare of all veterans

This year has seen our South Australian Branch re-established and starting to operate as part of the National Organisation. To continue this effort, however, requires the support of all members. If you can help, please do so. If you haven't paid your subscriptions, please attend to this as soon as possible because we need funds to support branch activities and contribute to the national lobbying effort. Don't leave it to the few. Please help us to help you.

We have a major fight to ensure that Veterans' Disability Payments, War Widows' Pensions and TPI Pensions are indexed as they should be – to reflect real cost of living increases. Veterans' income is being squeezed between cost of living increases and government decisions limiting our income. 2015 will see our efforts to correct these decisions escalate.

I wish to thank the members of our DFWA (SA Branch) Executive committee for their enthusiasm and strong support during this eventful year. I also want to thank you, our members, for supporting our efforts to re-establish the Branch. I can promise you an even more action-packed twelve months ahead!

Our thoughts are with those who have passed on this year and their families.

Have a very happy Christmas and a healthy, successful New Year. Stay safe.

John Wilson (President)

30 November 2014

