

Ole Martinson (Maj ret)  
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## Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans **SUBMISSION TO PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION**

May I respectfully thank the Productivity Commission for inviting this submission. I apologise for my late submission due to the fact I was unaware of this worthwhile initiative until yesterday when I received and read the current DVA Newsletter.

I am a Vietnam veteran, having served in this theatre of war on three occasions between 1965 and 1968. On discharge, after 20.5 years of continuous military service, I was diagnosed with some health issues, including a hearing loss. As a result of this assessment I was issued with a DVA Gold Card. In later years my auditory condition has further deteriorated, requiring me to wear hearing aids. I experience tinnitus which prevents me from attending venues where excess noise levels are a feature, including most major sporting events, some movies, theatre productions, music events and some performing arts.

### **The issue I wish to raise is as follows:**

Currently I am supplied under the Commonwealth Hearing Service Programme for standard issue hearing aids. Unfortunately, these do not meet my daily needs and therefore I am forced to pay additional thousands of dollars to be able to wear higher performing aids.

I understand in past times veterans, holding a gold card were supplied with higher quality hearing aids and that this policy was changed to bring everyone in the community in line with the above scheme.

I would respectfully argue that any veteran, who was diagnosed with a hearing loss on discharge, that resulted from military service, particularly active service, should be provided with hearing aids that matched their hearing loss needs as age progresses.

For your information, some years ago I purchased a Neuromonics Oasis Unit to mitigate the effects of tinnitus, recommended and supplied by Lions Hearing Clinic in Perth, which at the time cost \$4,000. Despite several attempt for reimbursement, the request was rejected by DVA.

In every other respect I have nothing but high praise for the service DVA has provided me to cover all conditions.

Respectfully yours,

Ole Martinson