

This Commission's remit is based on a report of **Veterans Suicide "The Constant Battle"** the genesis of which is based in Military Service, and therefore at the behest of the Australian Government and taxpayer, and thereafter, years in adversarial pursuit of rehabilitation within the compensation system, and it is the latter that causes this cohort of Veterans to succumb to the overwhelming frustration and despair, and take their lives.

The Treasurer in framing the T.O.R. and Issue Paper (being a political animal) sees everything through purely fiscal objectivity, we are constantly told from Politicians that the system of compensation is 'the best in the world' and yet as we read from the above documents we see the wedge of politics to the fore again ie:

- 1- A fairer system not only for the Veteran but also the **Tax payer.**
- 2- **To look at other jurisdictions** for Australian compensation payments, and other military frameworks.
- 3- **Veteran Centric Reform** (speak, amongst other things, for the Demise of the pension system and introduction of lump sum Payments)
- 4- **The revisiting of past reviews.**

Of course the Commission must look at all of the above, but in the end this is about getting a fit for purpose system that is an enhancement for the Veteran, dare I say **-not the taxpayer.**

**The T.P.I. Federation that represents Australia's injured veterans, has, since the Centenary of ANZAC been asking the Government to reassess the inequitable loss of income compensation against average weekly earnings and the need to have a mechanism in place whereby a fit for purpose benchmark (percentage based) scale that keeps their compensation payments at a constant with any ongoing movements in wages, this change would over a short period of time be largely revenue neutral for the Government because of this cohorts advancing years, a comprehensive study by Mr. Peter Thornton 2013 can be found at the link below**

<http://www.dfga.org.au/reference-documents/research-papers>

*Because this document is in the public domain I am including it as an attachment to this submission.*

In closing it is incumbent on this Commission that framing any changes in legislation, that it does **NOT** make the Veteran worse off, and must never cause detriment to any pension or compensation payment.

Regards Roy Jones (*Veteran*)