

## Productivity commission submission into Dva 2017

My name is Timothy Chesterfield I was in the navy from 1991 to 1994 I served in submarines: during this time, I received several injuries: of which I have outline in my submission to the Senate inquiry into suicide risk of veterans.

After reading the outline of what the commission is looking at I find myself in a unique place as I come under SCRA VEA.

In my dealing with DVA I have experienced the following

- The department losing application
- The long delays in processing applications
- The department despite having in my service doc's showing medical issues that occurred during my service, and those medical issues continuing after my service. To a point where I have become permantly disabled. The department denied my application at the first level and then I had to have them re-examined and even taking my case for Depression to the aat.
- My aat case Totally should not have happen because my service doc's show very clearly what I was suffering upon discharge and continued to suffer and yet because it was not reported to DVA until some years later through no fault of my own ( I had a dart Complaint that was considered to be one of worst and received full compensation and apology ) Dva does not recognise this as it not meet their high standard.
- Because I am a Carer for my wife who also suffered from an injury that she received during her service Not once but 5 Times and was not reported to dva until years later DVA claim that it was work after the navy that caused her injury when in fact it re-aggravated her condition and left her wheel chair bound. According to the states Workers compensation act. Her injury goes to her original injury in the navy and her work after the nay is not responsible for compensation or care. Rather DVA has this responsibility. Yet DVA have done everything to deny claims. This results in the fact that because I care for her I am not able to receive Disability pension under scra. Has was told to me if I can care for her I can work up to 4 hours a week. Which is not even what the Centerlink DSP requires under DSP its if you cannot work 8 hours in a week and accessed as such you are entitled to DSP. Even employment agencies wont work with you if you cannot work 8 hours a week.
- I am of the opinion Dva does everything to not pay out on a claim or pay what your entitled to
- I have even been accused of being a lair
- Because of treatment from DVA My depression / Ptsd has gotten worse along with other medical conditions
- There is and has been a culture within dva to deny deny and do this until the person gives up claiming or cannot afford to fight the claim due to lack good advocates or unavailability of legal services in regards to aat or federal court. Lack of funding and services Dva know this and use this to their advantage.
- Dva have also used medical reports to their advantage and not the veterans. Or they send you to medical practitioners for the same thing two or three times just to get a different opinion and then use the one that most suits so they don't have to accept the claim.

- Even with the RAP services they use every excuse not to supply service one example of this is when I applied for home services ie house cleaning. We had to prove that I needed it. I had to stop services for wife to have services from dva and even then I had justify my need for an extra .5 hours due to the things my wife needed. After 5 months this was sorted.
- I am still fighting dva for a pension and acceptance of conditions under VEA SCRA. When I should not be. 5 years later. My wife is also fighting dva for a pension and acceptance of condition vea scra. Since 2004

I hope this help

Many thanks

Timothy chesterfield