

Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans Submission

I was medically discharged from the Australian Regular Army on the 12 Dec 2010 after serving over 22 years as an Aircraft Life Support Fitter in the RAAF, RAAF Reserves and the Army.

Since my discharge I experienced considerable financial and emotional stress with the whole Compensation and Rehabilitation process with my case. It was over a year of management red tape and mismanagement before the financial support services were sorted in regards to what I was entitled too. During this time my means of financial support, which should have been straightforward was in fact a mined field.

The fact that this was compounded by being based overseas and that depending on what issues were being dealt with there was a separate department in different states offices throughout Australia for different issues. There was an issue of over payment, through no fault of my own, which made the whole process frustrating and confusing to say the least.

The other issue is that when requiring further treatment for injuries that are covered by DVA etc. for which I have a White Card and is useless overseas the whole process is quite intensive and time consuming, especially when requiring surgery. Then there is the issue that depending on, which department you are dealing with I have had to more than twice fills out a form and submit my financial Bank details in order to receive financial reimbursement.

I would have though that it would be more financially expedient and advantageous to have a reciprocal arrangement with allied countries with similar systems. I personally would like to see a more robust, streamlined system that makes the management and handling of veterans easier to understand and engage with from the initial start of process through to the support and rehabilitation.

Yours Sincerely,

Gary Vincent
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