

Submission timothy chesterfield & karen Chesterfield

To whom it may concern,

I am the son of a WWII veteran, I joined the RAN in 1991 after 5 years in the navy cadets. I was a Submariner Cook. I encountered issues with a Division officer while in the submarine section which ended my career due to constant harassment and bullying. I was also sexually assaulted. I was left with many medical conditions Depression PTSD suicidal attempts. After many years of suffering I decided to put a claim in with DVA Some things were accepted others were not. I put in a Dart Claim and was awarded the maximum amount and an apology letter. I discharged at own request. I had medical evidence which stated I had Major Depression.

Despite having all the medical evidence from the beginning to end Dva decided they would not accept my Depression PTSD claim because apparently, I did not report this which was a lie. I took it to AAT who also denied my claim this law as now changed due to the dart outcomes. But I have had to re-apply. DVA has an attitude of DENY DENY Deny until you die. Dva are so hard to deal with your treated like you lie. This is so wrong. I sit in the whole 20 days out for VEA which ended in 1994 and MCRA which began in 2004 so the only way for me to get anything is SCRA the VEA end date should have been the day before MCRA began not a 10 year gap for one thing. I am still fighting DVA when I should not have to.

As for my wife she injured her back 5 time and should have been discharged medically but she was discharge rnin and in 2003 she became wheel chair bound as a result of her back injury. However dva denied her claim she also had a dart claim which she was awarded a sum of money and an apology. She was made to work and do jobs that re injured her back many times over. The navy did not do what they should have done. In 2007 she attempted to commit suicide and suffers with PTSD and depression as a result of her back.

In her case and my case we have to have our discharges changed to a medical before dva will accept anything. Which is a very hard thing to do

We have both been treated really badly – I believe every serving member should if they are injured should receive a gold card. I have diabetes as a direct result of ptsd – I am not covered for some things like glasses that I need – as an example when I should be.

Then dva make a decision to pay a interim pension while they access your claim it pays like a pension however it's the only pension they pay that does not come with a pension concession card. So now I pay full price for medication, power, gas, water, Hearing aids, transport etc with no extra money to cover this. I end up 1000 down each month as a result where the hell do I get this from.

Dva needs to not behave like an insurance company and more like centerlink less Hassel and easier caring ways. The navy also needs to pull its own weight and be more transparent when its stuffed up in the 80 90s they got rid of people who had medical conditions with out passing them on to dva and left them out in the cold. Now they need to step up and recognise this and correct this it should not be that hard if there is medical evidence of an injury and especially 5 times it should be changed to a medical discharge.

Dva function well once your conditions are accepted however they do anything to disallow your claim this should not be so. We serve in extreme working condition and deserve better. Even as a

submariner I was paid hazarders pay but dva don't consider submariners as hazarders I served on 30-year-old subs and should be consider as hazards but it not this is wrong. The new ones are not hazarders. But the old ones were

I don't believe in getting rid on DVA but things need to improve they are not an insurance company and as such they should not operate like it. Claims should be made easier

The flow of information should be easier and those that have Dart or other such claim should not be subject to the harshness of DVA if it good enough for Dart to accept then It should be good enough for DVA.

If you require further info

Please contact me

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