

As a veteran with more than 35 years association with Defence I have a lot of friends who have had both good and bad dealings with DVA. Of those who have had issues with the processing of claims there have been a number who have been stonewalled by the Defence Department and its refusal to accept responsibility for its actions.

It is also my opinion, based on personal, that Defence has a track record of changing policies with little notice and without consultation to suit the department own agenda.

The recommendation that *“DVA’s policy responsibility should be transferred to the Department of Defence within a new Veterans Policy Group”* will effectively give the power to set policies governing how veterans and veteran compensation/rehabilitation is managed to the very organisation which may well be responsible for causing the disability in the first place.

I find it interesting that the Government, including Defence, go to great lengths to assure the public that dealings with the Government are fair, honest and without conflict of interest and then come out with a recommendation that can only be described as the fox in the hen house.

In the interest of all veterans this recommendation needs to be axed.