

1st July 2018

The Chairperson,
Veterans Compensation and
Rehabilitation Inquiry,
Productivity Commission,
GPO Box 1428,
CANBERRA ACT 2604

Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

Attached find my submission on Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans.

Unfortunately, as I am the son of soldiers, I lack the education and knowledge to formulate persuasive arguments within obscure sentences. I'll simply detail incidents that have occurred to me. On occasion those incidents will appear to be not relevant to this inquiry.

My reasoning is very basic. After spending more than 20 years trying to undo the damage that has been done to my family, which covers more than 50 years, I'll be send a copy of this to other governments departments. That'll save me a lot of work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. Contrary to most others, who I believe see this investigation as the 'light at the end of the tunnel', I see it as an attempt to change a very broken system which will provide watered down results because of the stubborn refusal of powerful positions to prevent a change to the status quo.

I apologise if it seems incomplete, and is not fluid. I have been subject to another 'distraction' at the hands of Veterans Affairs during the writing.

Yours Sincerely,

R.S.Miller

Submission by R.S. Miller on Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans 29 June 2018

Reference A. <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~gunman/references.html>

Sometime after being discharged from the Australian army with the use of falsified psychological reports (along with about 1600 other defence members) I was put in contact with the Commonwealth Repatriation Service (CRS). The sad result is shown at Annex A.

My initial first hand contact with Veterans Affairs was in early 1998. That painful episode is shown at Annex B.

OMG! While I'm writing this I'm contacted by an Occupational Therapist. She tells me that Veterans Affairs wants her to contact me. Veterans Affairs absolute contempt for veterans, their poor behaviour and superior presentation can be found at Annex C. Almost at the same time I've been called do to my doctor's rooms – only to be told that Veterans Affairs contacted him and instructed him to write a referral to the Occupational Therapist mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph.

I've found this submission difficult to write because with the false statement prepared by the Australian Army (that I suffer from confabulation) I find that throughout my life now I feel obligated to provide proof for everything that I say or write. Copies of emails are shown in standard type face while my submission has been presented in italics. I'll also apologise for the many spelling mistakes in the older emails.

There are two point that I would like to make, treatment that I have been subjected to.

Point 1. Government employees like telephone calls because they can say whatever they want and the recipient must declare that the conversation is being recorded. If they hear that declaration they say nothing of value.

For example a few days after my wife graduated from the Victorian Police Academy a police officer, SNR CONST Ian Garland justified the confiscation my firearms licences and firearms by suppling falsified documents. One that he was guided to by a mate and one that he prepared himself. His supervisor, whose name I have forgotten, called me by phone sometime after the Notice of Suspension was served. In that call he stated "I don't check my officer's work" or words to that effect, he then commenced to threaten me or my wife, I interrupted and pointed out that I record every threat (I started to make other statements but the line went dead).

Point 2. Government employees have developed the habit of cancelling a request or application and endorsed the action as 'withdrawn'. This leads an independent third party to read it as "withdrawn by the applicant".

The CRS

Enclosed within this annex are copies of emails that I have sent or received. The dates are correct but some formatting has been changed to make them easier to read.

Folio One to Annex A. contains the name of a friend of more than 50 years, Ron Mackenzie – who was a Federal Policeman at the time. When Ms PL informed me during an interview that Australian army officers, with whom she had completed a course, “were very unhappy with my attempts to have the harassment of my wife ceased and would “kill you” if I did not cease my actions I telephoned Ron and asked him to take care of it if I were to become injured.

I should point out that an army officers ‘kill’ means the same as inconvenience, irritate or most probably victimise my wife further.

So, I received a letter from person offering congratulations on securing the course that Ms PL had recommended me for. That letter instructed me to contact her and ‘get the ball rolling’. I phoned her within minutes of reading that, where she told me straight out that she had cancelled the course because it was too expensive.

I then wrote the letter shown as Folio One to Annex A.

I was contacted by first Mr AC and subsequently by Dr K. I was offered another course but unfortunately my wife’s poor administration skills kept me from this knowledge for some months.

Folio ONE to ANNEX A

In reply quote:
Crs190601

19th June 2001

Commonwealth Repatriation Service

For Information:

The Honourable Mr Stephen Martin MP
The Shadow Minister for Defence
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Entitlements Under An Act

References:

- A. CRS 22.3.2001
- B. www.alphalink.com.au/~gunman
- C. CRS 5th May 2000

Dear Mr Cutbush,

After giving the matter considerable thought I feel that it is necessary to bring to your attention the poor service and questionable behavior of a member of the CRS that I have encountered. I apologize in advance if it is abrupt or unintentionally rude. However, having been discharged with questionable psychological documents, I find their use objectionable.

Enclosed find copies of two letters. The first letter Ref A., although deceptive, is self-explanatory. You'll be able to determine vide Ref B. how much I dislike liars, con artists and the 'rumour mongers' and their behaviour. I request that Ms. PL provide proof to substantiate her letter, and I further require all those details that would identify the/any course that she attended late last year in Melbourne. I will accept a refusal to supply any information, as a response, so that I may present something of substance to the Federal Police. Further information on this point can be obtained from Const. Ron Mackenzie Western Australian Police.

-Page 2 of Folio One-

To save you becoming distracted be aware that on receipt of this letter my wife contacted Ms PL for and explanation/interview and was 'fobbed off' with 'no time-going on holidays' etc.

The second letter is my approval to undergo training, sponsored by CRS. I will point out to you that Ms PL organised this, had me gather all the necessary details and submitted the request complete with her recommendation. On receipt of the approval and as directed by the letter I approached Ms PL to commence preparation for the course. She informed me that she had decided to cancel it and gave me no reasons as to why.

The CRS has indicated its objective is to 'get people back to work'. I am an Artificer Armament (not quite a Gunsmith) and in today's climate work is impossible to get. I've been unemployed for 2 ½ years out of three and I approached the CRS for assistance in re-training not job hunting (as she attempts to misled in her letter). I understand by the Veterans Act that I am entitled to assistance and, as I've indicated to her, when Labor gets elected I will request assistance again. The website details the lies of Mr Scott and Mr Howard's other Ministers.

Causing me further distress is the fact that I have recently failed to gain employment with Rail Technology International because I needed \$3000 worth of courses in Non-Destructive Testing. and, there was 'no way' that I was going to rely on Ms PL again. In that I'd look foolish with the potential employer if/when she let me down again.

Ms PL indicates that she feels that I'm not serious about employment. Attached is a rough summary of the employment that I have sought/applied for recently. Feel free to contact any or all of them to verify my statement. It should be noted that at the end of my time in the service I came to note that even the 'dumbest' of Artillery folk could work out the fact that I didn't want too, and would not waste my time with them. To be continually harassed by Ms PL so that I could come down for a 'chat' was annoying, distracting and time wasting. I further request proof of all the Job Hunting assistance that she provided, e.g. training, interviews support etc. (The answer is none and nothing.)

In closing I find the lack of assistance/obstruction with any Government body, that I deal with in the hope of gaining employment, very frustrating and unusual.

ATTN Mr Stephen Martin MP: A while ago I applied for the same position in the public service Dept of Defence, that I held as a soldier in 1997. Recently I was informed that I was the only applicant (by HR Victoria Barracks), it is a fact that I didn't get an interview, and the position was re-advertised and filled a few months later. I suspect the method used to organise my discharge has damaged my chances for employment for the rest of my life. Can you advise me if there is an office or organisation that could influence any government employment application that I submit?

Yours Sincerely

R.S. Miller

-Page 3 of Folio One-

Position: 115665
Position: 106360
Position: 107586
Position: APS 3 GSO 7
Position: 126368
Position: 122541

Australian Customs Service (9244 8000 [16th March 2000])
Application for enlistment

DSTO:
Position: 00110652 TO1

Victorian Public Service
Application for enlistment Vic Police
Analyst 220-229 Vic Police
PAO 2 Vic Police

Civil Industry
Firearms Training Systems [1st time] 19 Jul 99)
Human Resources Manager Mobile
Human Resources Manager Shell
Human Resources Manager Kalgoolie Gold Mines
Human Resources Manager BHP
Production Parts (9338 3366)
Qantas Employment (02) 9691 3200

ANNEX B TO
180629Vetlss
DATED 29 JUN 18

Initial Contact with Veterans Affairs

Needless to say that I was very unhappy when discharged so I reasoned that if I was mentally healthy when I enlisted and 23 years later was discharged as mentally unhealthy I should receive compensation. So I submitted a claim which covered mental illness.

Those documents used to organise my discharge stated that I suffered from:

- a. Paranoia,*
- b. Confabulation,*
- c. Verbal Aggressiveness, and that*
- d. I was a poor NCO*

Prior to February 1998 I submitted a claim. An appointment was made for me in Melbourne, which I attended. A copy of the resulting complaint is attached as Folio One to Annex B.

I was sent to an MD who had no idea about a psychological assessment.

Not too long after I was notified that my claim was rejected. In response to my objection to that rejection I was informed that the decision was based on my last defence department reports! Namely Paranoia, Confabulation, Verbal Aggressiveness and my skills as a Poor NCO. Feel free to read Ref. A.

Folio ONE to ANNEX B

In reply please quote: Vetaff01

February 1998

Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 87A
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Reference: A. Your VSM0657/001 dated 20th January 1998

Dear Sir

Today I attended the appointment made for me in Ref A.

There appears to have been an error. When I realised that Dr D was conducting a medical examination rather than a pre-amble to a psychologist's assessment the interview was almost over. When I queried him on this he could provide no information although he did make a number of enquiries.

Could I be informed, as soon as possible, when the psychology assessment is to be conducted and would you please keep in mind that, at this time while I am unemployed, a wasted trip to Melbourne complete with the cost of parking is an expense that I don't need at the moment.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

R.S. Miller.

The Contempt Veterans Affairs Displays to Veterans

I have three separate instances to present. After speaking to the second Occupational Therapist I wrote the letter that's detailed at Folio One to Annex C. The response to that letter was a telephone call from the Assistant Director Transport, Aids & Appliances (TAP).

After pleasantries and her questioning why I would write this letter the conversation went as follows:

JG: What do you want?

RM: a TV antennae on a high roof

JG: No

JG: What else do you want?

RM: I need a hard line in the Armoury for safety reasons

JG: No

I didn't waste any more thought on her but I do remember that she said that she'd send me an email. I did receive an email from her on Fri 27/04/2018 8:22 AM. Her attitude that I can climb onto a high roof and install an antennae with knees that are unstable is clear. "to assist eligible persons to remain in their own homes safely and for longer" she wrote. I'd like to point out that as a Veteran I had to pay for my own knee replacement, and the second one is coming up ... I expect to be double crossed by Veterans Affairs with that one as well.

After speaking to the first Occupational Therapist I was told that I could not have a new set of timber steps for my back door, but I could have plastic devices to assist me in putting shoes and socks on. I was given -\$25 worth of plastic aids which I'll probably use well into the future.

The second Occupational Therapist's call came out of the blue. There was talk about the steps that I had been denied and other stuff which included the statement something like "Veterans Affairs will not pay for anything that a veteran without an accepted condition would normally pay for themselves". What I do remember is being contacted by a builder who required data about these step including an amplified drawing with dimensions. Preparing this drawing and smsing it to the builder was time consuming, frustrating and distressing. I haven't heard from him again.

The third incident occurred as a result of my submission requesting a medical review of my accepted conditions. Folio TWO to ANNEX C will provide some detail.

Folio ONE to ANNEX C

18th April 2018

In reply quote:
180418DVAassist

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
GPO Box 9998
Melbourne, VIC, 3001

For Information:

Minister for Veterans Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Veteran's Support VSM06573

Dear Ma'am or Sir,

May I make a suggestion and submit a query at the same time please?

Over the past 15 months I have dealt with Occupational Therapists, sub-contractors to Veterans Affairs.

More than once in those discussions they have made the statement "Veterans Affairs feels that if a veteran would spend his or her own money to improve their standard of living by hiring a third party then the recognised condition is not a justification for Veterans Affairs to 'foot the bill'.

My point is that I am a very qualified tradesman, now very broken and disenchanted with all that revolves around the military. The only things that I would not attempt, that come under 'support or improvements' definition, are complex household plumbing, brick laying and concreting as well as

I have the qualifications of Fitter Maintenance, Fitter and Turner, Small Arms Fitter, Artificer Armament, Class S electrical licence, Fitter Small Engines, Hydraulics and Pneumatics etc.

I have, in my day, installed roof tiles and vents, TV antennae's, hand built (in a back yard V8) car engines, I've repaired fridges, washing machines, ovens, dryers. I've modified, repaired power points and household electrical circuits. The Royal Australian, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers clarification "Jack of all trades, master of none" is acceptable enough.

In that I've almost lost all my ability to perform those task these day I find it very hard to accept the statement "You would have spent money to hire someone else". There are some instances where this is not in dispute. We have a fireplace in the house and plenty of wood on the property. The cutting of firewood causes us considerable discomfort, so we understand the need to address the future. This means that we are planning to have 'storage tank gas central heating' installed in our house. I would not attempt this and, unless a really nice surprise pops up, we understand that we would have to pay for this ourselves.

I was discharged illegally and have been not been supported correctly. Through the manipulations of the Defence Department and the Victorian Police (my wife transferred to the Army Reserve and enlisted into the Victorian Police – the history of that doesn't need to be written here) my wife and I have ended up on a farm 30 minutes out of Geelong. I'm 64 and do not expect to work again.

I am unhappy, after being forced to move house, that we have a lesser quality of life due to outside influences.

I request consideration be given to the fact that I would complete many tasks in and around my home, without hiring another person. Yet, a 'not very specific' statement is used to save money.

Sincerely,

(R.S.Miller)

Folio TWO to ANNEX C

31st October 2015

In reply quote:
151031VetAff

Dept of Veterans Affairs
Reply Paid 1631
SYDNEY, NSW, 2001

For Information:

Minister for Veterans Affairs
Senator The Hon. Stuart Robert
Parliament House
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Survey – Veteran’s Review Board

Dear Ma’am or Sir,

Enclosed find both my reply to your survey as well as this letter, my amplification.

Sincerely,

(R.S.Miller)

Annex A:

1. A Brief History of VSM 06572 R.S.Miller

Folio TWO to ANNEX C Page 2

ANNEX A TO
BRIEF HISTORY OF VSM 06572
DATED 31 October 2015

A Brief History of VSM 06572 R.S.Miller

A brief history of my dealings with Veterans Affairs, in no particular order.

- I was discharged in December 1997 with Falsified Psychological documents. In an attempt to challenge this action I sought a review, through Veterans Affairs (VetAffs), for psychological assessment. VetAffs sent me to an MD! Thus effectively defeating any challenge before I could start.

I questioned this action and was advised that VetAffs used the military documents that caused my discharge (as mentally unsound) to determine that I was mentally sound.

- Three years back I had my left knee replaced. Admittance time 6.00 a.m. on a Monday morning. Late on the Friday afternoon immediately prior to this, VetAffs telephoned the hospital where this surgery was to take place and advised it that the funding was withdrawn. That hospital contacted the Surgeon's office and advised them of this change, and it was left to the Office of the surgeon to contact me. With absolutely no time to react I had to pay for this myself. I was informed by the Hospital that "Veterans Affairs will take care of you" admittedly the hospital's error, nevertheless VetAffs hasn't bothered to initiate rehabilitation nor even contact me to review anything.

- I requested a re-assessment of my conditions (V12/0239 and/or V12/2039A). I was required to attend many specialists' appointments and Board Hearings. On my way to the last hearing (I think that it was Friday 13th February 2015) I was contacted by phone, and told by my RSL representative that the "specialist doctor used the wrong list again – we'd like to cancel this request and start again. I'll call you when the board is assembled"

Some minutes later I was contacted again and coached through the words that indicated that I wanted to withdraw this request, I was given the assurance that I would suffer no detriment and my RSL rep would re-initiate the application. I was made aware that the Board was in attendance and listening in.

From that point nothing has happened. I've contacted the RSL Representative and been given "I know nothing, who are you response". The board has allowed this and not followed through, as well as the RSL. Emails to Veterans Affairs Minister go unanswered.

- The most important comment spoken to me at a hearing seemed to be my manner of dress (suit no tie) "You look like Johnny Cash" stated by the female board member.