

Productivity Commission Report

Main Submission

After 30 years service in the Australian Army and now 30 years in retirement, I have not personally had any dealings with DVA.

However, many of the soldiers I had the privilege of commanding in Vietnam and in other postings have, over the years acquainted me with their trials and tribulations.

It seems to me there have been two main problems experienced by my associates that the Commission may care to address.

The first is regarding service records and verifying service and the circumstances of accidents/incidents. Seems to me these problems could be avoided by the automatic transfer of Service Records to DVA at completion of service.

The second concerns the time taken by DVA to assess claims and the subsequent loss of files, duplicated requests for information and general maladministration.

Furthermore, I am not clear on exactly what is proposed in the Interim Report by the Commission but it seems to me inappropriate to burden the Defence Forces with any involvement in the health and/or well-being of ex-members. The role of the Defence Forces is to prepare for and fight wars to safe guard our community. The addition of any other responsibilities for ex-members of the Defence Force will only divert attention from that role. There should be only two organisations – the Defence Force (responsible for serving members) and DVA (or any replacement organisation), responsible for ex-members of the Defence Force.

Yours Faithfully

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