

Mr Angus Campbell

## SUBMISSION

### Veterans Compensation and Rehabilitation Inquiry

[Forward]

I am a Vietnam War Veteran, serving with the 110 Signal Squadron 1968/69.  
And I am the founder of the Injured Service Persons Association and ex National President.

I have been involved with the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Military Compensation & Rehabilitation offices since 1971. As an advocate for better services for our returned war veterans and those who had suffered an injury during their service in the ADF:

I have attended three different Government reviews and inquiries into Military Compensation and Rehabilitation [MCRS Review} and other Government inquiries including the Townsville Blackhawk disaster: I also presented several submissions in relation to suicides within the veteran community: As well provided several Submissions to, {waste of time] Reviews and enquiries:

I along with many of hundreds maybe thousands of ex service men and women who served with pride and honour, have been victim to disgusting treatment from the senior inner sanctum employed with the Department of Veteran Affairs as with those employee's of the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation departments:

I present this Submission to the Productivity Commission knowingly that it is a non confidential basis document, That my submission is a true and accurate account as to why the Department of Veteran Affairs should not be replaced by any other government agency or privatisation of the department.

## VETERANS COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION INQUIRY

### Mr Angus Campbell's SUBMISSION

1. It is my opinion that the federal government and the Minister for Veterans affairs should not consider many aspects, of the Productivity Commissions report dealing with the Department of Veteran Affairs and or the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service departments:
2. The concern of closing down those departments would be of grave concern to all serving and ex members of the ADF as well as those who are in receipt of Veteran affairs benefits and or entitlements.
3. I believe that there is an urgent need to investigate the DVA and their approach to those who submit claims for wounds or injuries sustained during the course of their service.
4. The DVA is certainly a law upon them, particularly within the senior management sector, they have been embedded within the roles of which they supposedly manage, they are so stagnated with their role and certainly they do not want any changes made to the current policies of which they have taken part in drafting to suit themselves.
5. Yes there is a great need for change however the solution is not to close down the department and have another system operating anew. There is a positively a need to hold a Royal Commission and a thorough independent inquiry into the department of veteran affairs, so rather than changing the department and having another system put in place would indeed be a disaster in the making.
6. A Royal Commission would be the best alternative to closing down the DVA
7. There have been many suicides and attempted suicides within our veteran community, most have been created by those poor souls who have passed away out of sheer frustration created by the Department of veteran affairs, and the Military compensation offices.
8. I have myself attempted suicide on many occasions; all because of the disgusting attitude from officers employed by both DVA & MCRS I now live in fear on a daily basis that I might receive correspondence from the DVA offices.
9. I have even had my T&PI War pension reduced to 40% as a direct result of false and misleading allegations that, I was defrauding the Commonwealth Government of Australia, Hence after further "investigation" My war pension was reinstated
10. However after all that poor treatment I still maintain that the Department should not be shut down and replaced, a clean sweep of those stagnated in their positions would be the best alternative, rather than to replace it with another agency. The framework is already in place within the DVA offices, all that required is to change the policy and get rid of all the senior dead wood within the department.

Page Three:

## Productivity Commission Veterans Compensation and Rehabilitation Inquiry

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Here we have yet 'ANOTHER' Inquiry into the Department of veteran affairs. There has been several Inquiries into the "going on" regarding both the DVA & MCRC. Yet to this very day not much has changed with reference to assisting we who served, nothing much has been achieved with any review or inquiry into either departments mentioned.

This Inquiry which was instigated by the Hon Scott Morrison when he was the Treasurer serving Hon Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Is yet nothing other than Federal Government plan to "shut down" a Government department at all costs.

The Productivity Commission is a government department; they are the section of Government who plan ways and means in which save the federal government money!! This Inquiry has already reached a verdict, which is to close the DVA and introduce another supposedly better scheme in which to improve services to our ex and serving members of the ADF. That is my honest opinion.

The DVA is certainly over done with senior management and other departmental agencies attached to the DVA, Such as the AAT [Administration appeals tribunal] the office of the Defence Ombudsman, and many other associated agencies, all of which were put in place to do nothing other than to deny veterans any entitlements or benefits.

There has not been one cent entitlement or benefit monetary increase to the current entitlements or benefit since 1974 Other than the annual CPI increase, all DVA & MCRC benefits have stagnated at the 75% of the rate of wage a veteran could had earned if he or she were employed:

This Inquiry will be of zero benefit to any veteran or injured service person, it will however create further red tape and another bureaucratic agency of which would create more disadvantage to anyone who plans to lodge a legitimate claim for entitlement or benefit or even assistance:

And if you want to know what defines a "veteran" A veteran is a person who put his/her life on the line in order to protect our country and people like Scott Morrison and his family so that we can live in a nation and freedom of speech and live in a democratic country, That is what a veteran is: All the ESO'S the RSL. And other service associations, who agree with the notion that the DVA should be replaced by any other government agency such as Defence, then you should hang your heads in shame: And Protect our Veterans and Injured.

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DVA: Has been and always will be a law upon themselves, there are bullies amongst senior staffers, There are people versed in writing threatening letters to veterans, there is a special investigation section within the DVA. [Spies] Whose job it is, is to spy on veterans whom have lodged a claim for either compensation or DVA Benefits etc..

**The DVA is renowned for harassment toward veterans, they are very renowned in covering up for their staffers who are guilty of misrepresenting veterans, and it is my opinion that they the DVA have the Defence Ombudsman in their pockets as well. You can ask any veteran in Australia who have been unfortunate enough to have had dealings with the defence ombudsman offices what the outcome was: 89% of complaints to these Ombudsman offices have been in favour of the DVA!**

I may be so bold as to this inquiry as to "suggest" that to consider a clean sweep of the entire DVA Structure and to put in place an administrator who would have the powers to rewrite the current DVA policies and along with the federal government, that the DVA shall remain as the department of veteran affairs with only one Minister who would be Both minister for Defence and Veteran affairs, The new structure would of course be a better streamlined department, without the AAT and other red tape of we who served have had to endure. Do away with positions such as Secretary and other waste of time departments within this department: In other words have an administrator or give him or her whatever title would be appropriate to a new and helpful DVA.

I end my Submission for what it was worth:

Yours faithfully,

Angus Campbell