



Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Ref: M14/0520

Mr Peter Bysouth


Dear Mr Bysouth,

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2013 requesting an increase to the Decoration Allowance under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and your attached cost analysis of such a proposal.

I acknowledge there has been no increase to the Decoration Allowance since the one-off 4 per cent increase which occurred with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in 2000. I also note the unfortunate decline in the number of Decoration Allowance recipients.

The fact that the Decoration Allowance has not been increased since 2000 bears no reflection on the gallant services rendered by veterans, such as yourself. While you have estimated the cost of increasing the Decoration Allowance would be insignificant, successive Australian Governments have not sought to change the amount and have preferred to compensate veterans for the effects of their service in other ways such as through the provision of disability pensions, service pensions and coverage for medical treatment.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,


SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON

12 MAR 2014