



ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

ADSO FAIR GO CAMPAIGN – ELECTION 2019 ACTION GROUP (AG)

The Action Groups are an essential part of ADSO's Fair Go Campaign because they convert our objectives words into actual deeds that can be seen by all and publicised to the Australian people nationally. The picture of us in action is worth more than a thousand words.

[ADSO's released Policy Objectives 2019 -2022](#) identifies those objectives we will campaign for with the major and some minor political parties in the lead up to the 18th May 2019 election and beyond into the 46th Parliament.

The designated ADSO members responsible for leading those objectives are:

1. Legislate a Veterans' Covenant – DFWA
2. Military Superannuation Benefits Schemes – DFWA (Rob Shortridge)
 - DFRDB – ADFRA (Herb Ellerbock), Ken Stone and Jim Treadwell
 - i. Indexation
 - ii. Commutation
 - iii. Reversionary Benefits
 - MSBS – DFWA (Rob Shortridge)
 - An independent Inquiry into the CSC (Note this is additional to the released ADSO objectives and included here as a sub-set superannuation issue because it is a topic that the AGs need to be prepared to discuss) – DFWA/RARC
3. Redress Inadequacies of TPI/SR Disability Compensation Payments – TPI Fed (Pat McCabe)
4. Support the Retention of a Department of Veterans Affairs – DFWA
5. Accept the Value of Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) – DFWA

Those responsible are the recognised authority on that subject and by monitoring all information and actions on the subject will advise ADSO and its AGs of any relevant changes that could affect our success.

The ADSO Action Group teams have four direct action roles to:

1. Promote our objectives to their electorate;
2. Visit targeted MPs/Senators and candidates in chosen marginal Federal electorate seats;
3. Conduct rallies as required; and
4. Attend local community, public forums etc.

All roles require two basic documents to be prepared by those designated above and provided by 10th May

1. A one page **In a Nutshell Summary** (the soldier's five minute briefing) that says
 - a. What we need, and
 - b. Why we need it.
2. A dot point rebuttal of the known and perceived objections to our need. (See an example attached)

The **In a Nutshell Summary** can also be used as a handout that will include a reference to a link for details and a request for how to support us. The text needs to be short and assertive. And we want you to give us the words you want on any placards: ADSO will organise the placards in the areas where they will be used.

How our ADSO Action Group Teams' Operate

1. Direct Action Rallies

- a. Each Team comprises about 6 people. We wear our medals to identify us as veterans. Ideally, we would like to have in that number a couple who are adversely affected by the issue (TPI veteran and the spouse, DFRDB or MSBS superannuant etc)
- b. The Team conducts a "peaceful rally" outside the MPs Electorate Office or candidates office for a couple of hours (at a time when there is maximum activity) handing out leaflets, holding our placards (Flashing them to passing motorists) and explaining to people passing by the purpose of our rally.
- c. We alert the MP/candidate of our "visit" and ask that he/she meets with two or three of us in the office or better still outside with us: where, we explain our objective and ask for their support. If we have an issue affected person with us he/she will engage the MP/candidate
- d. We alert the local media to our purpose and encourage their attendance. If they don't attend, we video the event or take photos and immediately post them on our social media sites for sharing with our own supporters and the public.

Attached is a photo of the CSC Rally outside the Brisbane Law Courts last year when rallying against the CSC being excluded from the Haynes Royal Commission. Three of us were allowed to enter the building and hand our Letter of Request to one of the Commissioner's personal assistants. We received a written reply the next day.

The media filmed our rally and it was reported on Channel 7. In raising public awareness it was successful.

2. Visits to MPs/Senators and Election Candidates

We request a meeting and clearly state our purpose. Attached is our guide for meeting the local Politician. In those meetings we encourage a spouse to attend to present the family perspective.

3. Attendance at Public Forums/Meetings/TV sponsored meetings etc

Where possible we attend and seek to ask a question during the meeting, or immediately after to personally meet the Politician to discuss the issue and hand over our request letter.

Successful examples to name a few have been Peter Thornton's attendance at Q&A prior to the 2013 Election to ask a question and his leadership in a Rally outside the Rooty Hill RSL at which the rally team were able to secure an immediate (same day) personal meeting with PM Gillard.

I hope the above gives you a better understanding of how the AGs operate and their essential need for the summary documents stated above.

Finally, we need all ADSO member organisations support now in these ways:

- Nominate your Co-ordinator to assist the FGC Directors Ted Chitham and Alf Jaugietis fairgocampaign@gmail.com
- Nominate your State Action Group Co-ordinators to Ted Chitham fairgocampaign@gmail.com He will arrange for the relevant State Action Group leader to contact your nominee.
- Recruit volunteers to join their Local Federal Electorate Action Group and advise Ted Chitham fairgocampaign@gmail.com He will arrange for the Local Action Group leader to contact your volunteers.

We realise that there is little time left to initiate all the ADSO roles but it is critical that we have our issues platforms in place before the commencement of the 46th Parliament

UNITED WE STAND

Ted Chitham
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1st May 2019