



# AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

We act on behalf of Defence Force Retirees and their Military Superannuation grievances

Register on: <https://www.adfra.org/>

Contact us on: [admin@adfra.org](mailto:admin@adfra.org)

## DFRDB UPDATE - May 2019

Hi All,

If you don't already know, you should be aware that:

1. On 5 April 2019, 3 days after the ESORT meeting in which ADSO agreed that the Commonwealth Ombudsman should head the Inquiry which the Hon Darren Chester MP announced on 25 May, Minister Chester wrote to the Ombudsman to ask that he consider undertaking an investigation to resolve the matter.
2. On 10 April 2019, the Ombudsman informed the Minister and Secretaries of Defence and DVA that he would commence an **own motion** investigation into the accuracy of information provided by scheme administrators and relevant departments to DFRDB scheme members in relation to commutation.
3. The Ombudsman and Minister intend to publish further media releases which have already been drafted (but we have not seen).
4. An investigation, initiated by the Assistant Secretary, People Policy and Employment Conditions, Defence People Group, DoD, is already in progress. We believe this to be a fact gathering exercise to defend the Department's position against the representations regarding the information provided to members on discharge about the commutation provisions.

1 to 3 above appear to make a nonsense of these statements which were included in the Minister's media release:

*The Government recognises the importance of open and transparent discussion around veteran concerns and we will consult with the ex-service community about the terms of reference for the inquiry, as well as panel membership.*

*Ex-Service Organisations and scheme members will have the opportunity to make submissions to the inquiry and raise any other concerns relevant to the scheme.*

ADSO has now launched a [Fair Go Campaign – Election 2019](#) and nominated ADFRA (Herb Ellerbock), Ken Stone and Jim Treadwell as the Action Group to spearhead the DFRDB concerns.

In response, we (ADFRA) have produced and forwarded the requested [Nutshell Summary](#) and [Rebuttal](#).

We encourage you to distribute the [Nutshell Summary](#) far and wide and in particular to the Candidates in your Electorate and for the Senate positions in your State.

We will represent your concerns. If you are not already a member then please go to our <https://www.adfra.org/> web site and register.

Regards,

**Jim Hislop**