



Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc.

No. A0108026R

We represent the interests of Defence Force Retirees regarding their Superannuation

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

Email: admin@adfra.org

DFRDB UPDATE – DECEMBER 2025

The Senate Inquiry has been postponed

The Senate Inquiry's completion date has been postponed to 19 March 2026. The delay was granted to allow Senator Jacqui Lambie time to recover from back surgery so she can participate fully in the inquiry.

There is still no advice on whether public hearings will be held or which ESO representatives or individuals may be invited. If ADFRA is invited to appear, we are prepared to do so at very short notice and will represent DFRDB recipients to the best of our ability.

RSL National's call for collaboration

The RSL National President recently encouraged ESOs to collaborate on ex-service issues. We responded with the attached correspondence, to which the National President has since replied.

ADFRA remains willing to work with any organisation or individual committed to improving outcomes for the DFRDB community and will follow up on his recommendation.

Season's Greeting

Finally, on behalf of the ADFRA Committee and our dedicated research team, we wish all members a very happy Christmas and good health throughout 2026.

Jim Hislop OAM

President

Email to: national.president@rsl.org.au on 8 December 2025

Mr Peter Tinley AM
National President
Returned & Services League of Australia

Dear Mr Tinley,

I write on behalf of the Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA) to outline our purpose and invite constructive cooperation with RSL National.

ADFRA represents retired members of the Australian Defence Force and their families, with particular focus on military superannuation schemes. Our research team has concentrated on the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme, which accounts for many submissions to the current Senate Inquiry. While other schemes may also face challenges, these often emerge only after years of lived experience.

We note that RSL National has recently endorsed submissions from the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA). While DFWA has long contributed to the veteran community, exclusive reliance on their position risks overlooking the evidence and lived experience presented by ADFRA. Our concern is not with DFWA itself, but with ensuring that all perspectives are considered so that outcomes are balanced and equitable.

ADFRA's policy positions are developed through direct member input, reflecting the concerns of thousands of retirees. Our Senate submission demonstrates the independence and rigour of this approach. We believe collaboration—not competition—between veteran organisations is the most effective way to secure fair outcomes.

Accordingly, we extend an open invitation for RSL National to engage with ADFRA in dialogue, information-sharing, and coordinated advocacy. Many of our members are also RSL members, and our Updates already reach some 400 RSL sub-branches.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representatives to discuss our research and policy priorities. Working together will strengthen advocacy on behalf of all who have served.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Hislop OAM (Lt Col Retd)

President, Australian Defence Force Retirees Association



RSL
Australia

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LTD

Patron: His Majesty The King

ABN | 63 008 488 097
POSTAL | PO Box 30 CAMPBELL ACT 2612
TEL | (02) 6280 4079
EMAIL | enquiries@rsl.org.au

O 114/25

17 December 2025

Jim Hislop OAM (Lt Col Retd)
President
Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA)
[Email: admin@adfra.org](mailto:admin@adfra.org)

Dear Mr. Hislop,

Thank you for your email and for outlining ADFRA's purpose and ongoing advocacy for retired Australian Defence Force members.

As I understand, my team lodged a submission to the Senate Inquiry into military superannuation earlier this year. This was developed through our National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC). The NVAC is our policy development committee; and I would be happy to pass on your submissions and any other information that you think would be of interest to the Committee.

Thank you again for reaching out. We look forward to ADFRA's continued engagement through the NVAC and to working together in support of the veteran community.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tinley AM
National President
RSL Australia