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Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2019 9:38 PM
To: 'darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au' <darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au>
Cc: 'Kel Ryan' <president.national@dfwa.org.au>; 'Defence Force Welfare Association' <national@dfwa.org.au>; 'Jim Hislop' <jghislop1937@hotmail.com>
Subject: Independent Inquiry into the Administration of DFRDB Scheme Commutation Arrangements

Dear Minister,

Thank you for giving Jim Hislop and I the opportunity to express the concerns our Association has with the DFRDB scheme.

We applaud your initiative in announcing the Independent Inquiry into the Administration of DFRDB Scheme Commutation Arrangements, but as always any real outcomes will depend on the Terms of Reference (TOR).

We understand that the TOR will be established at the upcoming ESORT, where the ADSO view of DFRDB concerns will be put by DFWA National. That view is expressed in this excerpt from its Media Statement of 26 March 2019.

As for the commutation arrangements, Kel Ryan stated that DFWA and the veterans community as a whole had long sought redress of varying grievances relating to DFRDB, not the least of which included the continued application in 2019 of out-of-date 1962 life tables for calculating both commutation entitlements and fortnightly superannuation payments made to veterans subject to the DFRDB scheme.

Hopefully, the proposed inquiry will uncover the serious financial injustices that those out-dated life tables have caused to DFRDB superannuants. Life expectancies have markedly increased from the time since the DFRDB scheme was introduced in 1973. Those increases have meant that the amount of permanent pension reduction calculated using old tables is far higher than they should be if current tables applied.

It is our understanding that this view is not shared by all of DFWA's State Branches and, as you would have gathered from our meeting, it is not shared by our Association.

We are the fastest growing ex-service organization and represent all of DFRDB members' concerns. If this Inquiry is to have any credibility then our Association's input to the TOR must be considered. Therefore, we request an opportunity to comment on the proposed TOR before they are set in place.

Thank you again for your generosity with your time.

Yours sincerely,

Herb Ellerbock