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Sent: Sunday, 18 October 2020 11:34 AM
To: 'Shayne.Neumann.MP@aph.gov.au' <Shayne.Neumann.MP@aph.gov.au>
Cc: 'Christopher.Forrester@aph.gov.au' <Christopher.Forrester@aph.gov.au>;
'Clair.Parsons@aph.gov.au' <Clair.Parsons@aph.gov.au>; 'Jim Hislop' <jghislop1937@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: ADF double standards

Dear Mr Neumann,

I am looking forward to speaking with you on Wednesday. Our President, Jim Hislop OAM, will also be with me, but due to his hearing impairment may not be able to keep up with the conversation entirely.

The following is some background:

From the commencement of the DFRDB scheme in 1973, Defence, Treasury, the Government Actuary and Parliamentary Counsel mounted a sustained attack on DFRDB entitlements.

They systematically altered the DFRDB Act to diminish the entitlements granted by the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee which the Labor Government of the day had committed to implementing. And the Parliament rubber-stamped those amendments because it was deceived and was unaware of the effect.

In many cases, those amendments have reduced DFRDB entitlements by up to almost 50% over the lifetime of recipients.

These concerns have been raised on many occasions by ex-servicemen and women who are affected. But the Government's and Opposition's position on the matter is established by Finance, Defence and Defence Personnel, who have persisted with their deception.

The recent investigation by the Commonwealth Ombudsman is a prime example of how those Departments manipulate the outcome of 'independent' reviews of the DFRDB scheme, and this is exemplified in the attached rebuttal of the Ombudsman's report.

Now, the Ombudsman's report serves as a cornerstone of the justification for the Government's and Opposition's refusal to address DFRDB recipients' concerns.

Men and women who devoted 20 or more years of their lives to the service of their country in the Australian Defence Force deserve better than that. They expect this Ombudsman's report to be challenged, and a genuinely independent and thorough inquiry to be conducted.

Yours faithfully,

Herb Ellerbock

Secretary, Australian Defence Force Retirees Association Inc.

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