

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE JUST WANT WHAT'S FAIR

Ho hum, the Veterans' Community have been conned by Minister Chester again. Why make promises with no intention of keeping them? The Minister issued a press release on March 25 this year where he stated: *"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."

We now find the Commonwealth Ombudsman will conduct an "own motion" inquiry into misleading information that may have been distributed to members of the Defence Force by Commonwealth Superannuation. The Ombudsman may well find a case in favour of our veterans but Minister Chester can just ignore any recommendations as that is all they will be: "recommendations"

The Minister also stated in his press release that "other matters of concern in the

superannuation scheme" would be investigated. He has also reneged on that promise.

Thousands of fine Australian men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice that has ensured my freedom to criticise a Minister of the government in a public forum. Some veterans survived the horrors of war yet they came home bearing physical and mental disorders, others could not be released for operational service as their knowledge and skills were required at home to support the front line. Yet they all contributed to the government-run and managed superannuation scheme. We want nothing more than a fair and transparent inquiry.

Jim Hislop, Wodonga