



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Wednesday 15 May 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations¹ (ADSO) Condemns the Budget for failing to address Long Standing Discrimination Measures against Defence Members and Veterans

The ADSO spokesman (David Jamison) today condemned the Government's budget for again disregarding its "employer" obligations towards serving and former ADF members and their families, many of whom have been discriminated against for more than 20 years. Yet it declared support for veterans as a key priority – words without substance! Military widows and former ADF members on invalid superannuation payments are among those who feel betrayed by continued denial of their correct entitlements.

Regardless of the state of federal finances, the Government has an obligation to meet the terms and conditions of the defined benefits promised the Nation's service personnel, both past and present. In last night's budget the Government once again failed to address the decades of abuse caused by discounted adjustments of military superannuation and the exclusion of Veteran Disability Pensions from the 2009 budget pension increases.

The Alliance calls for Government action to:

1. Provide the correct non-discretionary indexation of all Military Superannuation Payments;
2. Abolish Military Superannuation Benefit Scheme Maximum Benefit Limits (MBL) as recommended in the 2007 Review into Military Superannuation; and
3. Adjust the Veterans Disability Pension rates in line with the adjustment of Age and Service Pension single rate in the 2009/10 budget.

The Government has an obligation to fulfil its responsibility as the "employer" of the Nations' service personnel. If any other employer failed to keep its part of a workplace agreement there would be recourse to Fair Work Australia for redress. ADF members have no such right! Consequently, there is an added responsibility on the Government of the day to act honourably especially as there is no independent umpire but it is failing its Defence members, their families and veterans. A failure now acknowledged by the Opposition when last in power and with a promise to partially address in its first budget if elected.

Media Contacts

Executive Director:

Alf Jaugietis (0438) 282 284

www.standto.org/cms/

ADSO National Spokesman:

David Jamison (0416) 107 557

¹ The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), the Naval Association of Australia (NAA), the RAAF Association (RAAFA), the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC) and Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA) with Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association (APPVA) and Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) as partners.