



## ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

10 May 2012

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **BUDGET COMMENT –**

#### **SOME GOOD OUTCOMES BUT MUCH MORE NEEDED**

Australian Ex Service men and women in receipt of military superannuation pensions could not have been more impressed with the opening words the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, used in his budget-related media statement on Tuesday when he said *“Our priority is to make sure we look after those who have sacrificed so much for this country,”*

The aspiration of that comment is applauded. And for that reason the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations welcomes the Government's budgetary response to the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements and its \$17.4 million commitment over the next four years to implement 96 recommendations flowing from the 108 recommendations of the Review. This commitment will deliver improvements to current arrangements for compensation and health care; increase financial compensation for eligible members and families; and improve training for those who provide advice to the veteran community on entitlements.

The Alliance is nonetheless disappointed that the Government has not taken the opportunity to increase the Veteran Disability Pension which was excluded from the pension improvements included in the 2009 budget or restore a condition of employment relating to military superannuation indexation, the condition being that superannuation payments (pensions) would be indexed to maintain their purchasing power. This has not been the case since the 1990s. In its budget submission the Alliance asked that superannuation payments be indexed to the same percentage as that which applies to age and service pensions.

#### *Media Contacts*

**DFWA Executive Director:**

Alf Jaugietis 0438 282 284

[www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au)

**DFWA National President:**

David Jamison 0416 107557

\* The Alliance comprises the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA); the Naval Association of Australia (NAA); the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARAC); the Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA); and the RAAF Association (RAAFA).