



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

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MEDIA RELEASE

FAIR INDEXATION –

JUST NOT FOR AUSTRALIAN EX SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Australian Ex Service men and women in receipt of military superannuation pensions could not have been more surprised to read headlines on Monday announcing in bold print that **‘Bob Carr to Push for UK Pension Indexation’**.

The Labor Foreign Minister made it known that he supported indexation to *‘some 25,000 UK pensioners living in Australia’*, none of whom were seemingly indexed to the same level as that applying to UK residents. Mr Carr clearly felt that this was not only unfair on the individuals involved but ‘discriminatory’ as well.

Mr Carr’s concern for the welfare of UK pensioners living in Australia is admirable. So why can’t he and his Labor Government show similar compassion for the welfare of Australian Ex-Service men and women and their families living on military superannuation pensions. Their retirement, widows and invalidity pensions have been denied fair indexation at the same level as Age pensions for too many years. The reduced buying power of these pensions is now causing real hardships to so many.

Those who have given long and loyal service in the Australian Defence Force rightfully question the double standards of the Government. If there is enough concern to lobby the UK Government about indexing UK pensioners living in Australia, then there should be similar concern for Australian military superannuation pensioners who at least deserve their pensions to be indexed in the same way as Age pensioners.

Australian Ex-Service men and women only ask for equity and fairness, nothing more and certainly nothing less.

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