



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

14 February 2013

MEDIA STATEMENT

A TIME TO REMEMBER THOSE CALLED UPON TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY

The ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS (ADSO) joins with DVA Minister Warren Snowdon in recognising the contribution national servicemen have played in Australia's military history. And joins with him also to *'honour their courageous efforts and remember the sacrifice of the some 200 killed and 1,200 wounded during the Vietnam War'*.

Indeed, the Alliance would encourage that such recognition be equally extended to all servicemen and servicewomen who served their country in 'times of need'. These servicemen and servicewomen, Nashos included, contributed immensely to this country sometimes at high personal cost. Australians are thus encouraged to reflect and to take time out of their day to remember their unqualified and selfless efforts.

In the spirit of such recognition, we ask the Minister to reflect not only on the many servicemen and servicewomen who are receiving a Veterans' Disability Pension but to ponder the fairness of his Government's action to substantially reduce in 2009 this Pension in value by removing its indexation parity with the Age and Services Invalidity Pension.

Is this the kind of reward that is appropriate for those who the Minister acknowledges have given so much to their country?

Removing indexation parity resulted in a loss of approximately \$3,300.00 pa to each and every TPI/Special Rate Pension. It furthermore resulted in an approximate loss of \$1,200.00 pa of 100% of the General Rate Pension. All other DVA Disability Pensions were affected pro-rata.

Veterans' Disability Pensions must be restored to parity forthwith.

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