



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

15 August 2012

MEDIA STATEMENT

Coalition to Press Parliament on Fair Indexation

The ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS (ADSO) warmly welcomes the Coalition's initiative to again attempt to deliver fair indexation to veterans and ex-service personnel on DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions.

While applauding this initiative, ADSO notes that it is only the first step in restoring the "contracted" Condition of Service that superannuation payments would maintain their purchasing power as it excludes former members under the age of 55, including those on invalidity superannuation as well as all members of the current superannuation scheme (MSBS). The situation was graphically illustrated only six weeks ago when military superannuants were sent letters by the Government offering them a few paltry cents more per fortnight to cover cost of living increases. The increased payment would have been nine times higher had the Government carried through with its pre-election promise to index superannuation fairly.

The unique nature of military service requires unique solutions. Parliament must recognise its responsibilities to the nation's service men and women by removing the unfair, unjust and inequitable provisions in the military superannuation schemes. There are now two measures before the House of Representatives that must be debated and voted on which provide an opportunity for our Nation's elected representatives to act honourably in support of our serving and former ADF members. What will they decide?

Please continue to access the ADSO website for updated information on Operation AWARE 2. It represents the second phase of the Alliance's public's awareness campaign to explain how unfair and unjust the Government has been to take no action to either fairly index Military Superannuation pensions to reflect the cost of living increases, or to restore Veterans' Disability Pensions parity. See the site here: www.standto.org

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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).