

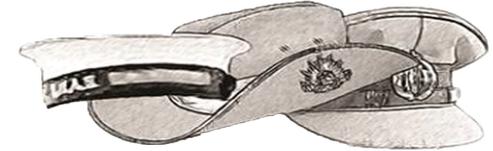
[www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au)

# **FAIR GO! CAMPAIGN**

## **DFWA SUMMARY OF 2010**

### **ELECTION POLICY ISSUES**

**18 August 2010**



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

In the lead up to the 2010 Federal Election, the Defence Force Welfare Association along with our partner organizations, embarked on a public awareness campaign calling on all parties for their intentions in regard to four key matters affecting the Defence Family:

- ***Fair indexation of military superannuation pensions*** - because, unlike the Age Pension and other welfare and superannuation pensions, the purchasing power of military superannuation pensions is not protected.
- ***Equitable treatment of veterans' disability pensions*** – because the pensions of men and women who were disabled in the service of Australia have lost their relative value.
- ***Certainty in military compensation*** - because ongoing indecision and uncertainty is stressful, unnecessary and unacceptable.
- ***Veterans' health care*** – because mental health and residential accommodation for younger veterans in particular are issues that are increasing in frequency and severity

The Association worked with a series of Local Action Groups in 49 marginal electorates to pursue these matters. In particular we called upon the political parties to commit to improve the indexation of all military superannuation schemes without further delay. In many cases this involved public meetings, local media coverage, direct approaches to the candidates etc

The table below is a brief summary of what we have identified as the major new policy initiatives announced during the election campaign, up till 18 August 2010. It has been written in good faith and every attempt has been made to objectively state the parties' positions. Fair Go! recognizes that the major parties have announced a larger number of other policies relevant to defence and veteran portfolios, many of which are outside the above four policy areas. In addition, the ALP (by virtue of being in Government) have repeated some policies outside of the four areas that are already in place or previously announced before the election was called. These are not listed in the table. Family First has been included as they have provided the Campaign strong support.

Readers are invited to examine in more detail the relevant policy documents on the major parties' websites for further detail and information:

[www.alp.org.au/agenda](http://www.alp.org.au/agenda)

[www.liberal.org.au/issues](http://www.liberal.org.au/issues)

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

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

“FAIR GO” ISSUES	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	LIBERAL – NATIONAL COALITION	GREENS	FAMILY FIRST
<i>Fair indexation of military superannuation pensions</i>	<p>No acceptance of our fundamental case for change</p> <p>No support to changing the current CPI Indexation formula.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Acceptance of our fundamental case for change.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the DFRDB / DFRB schemes over the age of 55 from 1 Jul 11 will have their pensions indexed as per the Aged pension.</p>	<p>Strongly believe that the Government should now act to provide wage-based indexation on the same terms as the Aged Pension for all Commonwealth and defence force superannuation pensions.</p>	<p>Will introduce more equitable indexation arrangements which properly take into account the rising costs of living and do not erode veterans' entitlements.</p>
<i>Equitable treatment of veterans' disability pensions</i>	<p>No change to the refusal of a “catch up” payment to ADF Disability Pensions to remove the last of the erosion suffered between 1997 &amp; 2007 and to take account of increased community living standards since 1997.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known (but support assumed).</p>
<i>Certainty in military compensation</i>	<p>Committed to taking all appropriate action in response to the Review when it is released.</p>	<p>Will respond to the Review when it is released, and consult with ESOs.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known.</p>
<i>Veterans' health care</i>	<p>Annual reimbursement out of pocket expenses for pharmaceuticals for war caused disabilities from 2010, payments commence from 2013.</p>	<p>Remove out of pocket expenses for pharmaceuticals of disabled veterans in receipt of 50% of the General rate or higher from Jan 2012</p>	<p>Initiatives in this policy area not known.</p>	<p>Will give special attention to the needs of veterans, to ensure their health is looked after.</p>
	<p>New program of enhanced support and services for wounded ADF members (Simpson Program).</p>	<p>Advised that it supports this new program.</p>		
	<p><u>Related issue: ADF Family Healthcare</u></p> <p>Examine the results of the current trial.</p>	<p><u>Related issue: ADF Family Healthcare</u></p> <p>Provide free basic health and dental care to all ADF members and their families in close proximity to Defence establishments</p>		