

# REGULAR DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION INC NATIONAL OFFICE

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## RDFWA

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Disabled Service Personnel Miss Out

“Able-bodied military pensioners, like most other Commonwealth pensioners, will welcome the recommendations of the Senate Economics Committee’s report into the *Simplified Super* legislation, but the report leaves the position of the most disadvantaged service personnel, those who have been compulsorily retired on a full invalidity pension, and who can never work again, even more neglected by this legislation.” the National President of the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association, Commodore Harry Adams said today.

Under the legislation, military personnel who have been compulsorily retired on Category A Invalidity Pensions, at perhaps quite young ages, are forced to struggle on for possibly decades paying full tax on their invalidity pension until they turn 60 when, miraculously, they receive a 10% tax offset. These former defence personnel are unable to develop second careers or undertake any paid employment. Even if the Government accepts the Committee’s recommendations for Commonwealth pensions, these military invalidity pensioners are unable to take advantage of them, and will remain forgotten and ignored.

The Committee has recommended that a review of the military pension schemes now be undertaken to try to resolve these compulsory retirement issues. The issue is not the applicability of the military pension schemes to these people; it is, and remains, the superannuation tax treatment of the most disadvantaged.

“Rudyard Kipling was right,” said Harry Adams,

“While it’s Tommy this, and Tommy that, and “Tommy, fall be’ind.”

But it’s “Please to walk in front, sir”, when there’s trouble in the wind.”

Military invalidity pensioners are being allowed to “fall be’ind” in the Government’s Brave New World of retirement incomes.”

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*RDFWA was founded in 1959 to advance the interests of serving and retired personnel in the fields of remuneration, superannuation and compensation.*