

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION INC NATIONAL OFFICE

ABN 49 929 713 439



PO Box 4166, KINGSTON ACT 2604

Telephone: 02 6265 9530

Facsimile: 02 6265 9776

Patron: His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Ref: 50.10

11 January 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Regular Defence Force Welfare Association (RDFWA) Submission -

Taxation Laws Amendment (Simplified Superannuation) Bills Inquiry

Enclosed is a copy of a submission made by RDFWA to the Treasury on 1 August 2006 relating to the impact of this legislation on Defence personnel. The thrust of that submission was the need to accommodate, in the legislation, aspects reflecting the special nature of military service. In outline, the problems were, and remain:

- a. The proposed legislation's age trigger of 60 years fails to acknowledge and accommodate the provisions within ADF service for compulsory (and involuntary) termination of full-time service on grounds of:
 - Age;
 - Medical condition; and
 - Other management initiated circumstances.

- b. The proposed legislation's age trigger of 60 years and the proposed reversionary benefit provisions fail to acknowledge and accommodate the circumstances associated with:
 - The death of a serving ADF member;
 - The subsequent death of an ADF member consequent upon compulsory termination on medical grounds, from causes associated with that termination; and
 - The consequent impacts upon the entitled spouse and dependent children.

Following that submission to the Treasury, RDFWA represented its points to the service chiefs and to a number of parliamentarians who had undertaken familiarization tours with the services.

It is particularly disappointing, therefore, that the Treasurer has chosen to overlook all representations made to him in respect of the impact of this legislation upon serving defence force personnel. Both sides of politics have, in the past, stated categorically that they do not regard defence force personnel as "public servants dressed in uniform"; this legislation, as drafted, does just that.

H J P Adams AM
Commodore RAN (Retd)
National President