

# DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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

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## Erosion of Military Pensions

The Defence Force Welfare Association welcomes the ALP's commitment today "to prevent future erosion of Veterans' compensation pensions", and calls on all parties to apply the same principle to all other military pensions which purport to maintain the recipients' standards of living.

National President David Jamison said that, for example, a military pension started in 1990 and indexed at just the Consumer Price Index has lost over 25% of its value compared with what it would be worth had it been indexed at the rate which has now been accepted as necessary by both the Government and the ALP – the higher of CPI or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) – for veterans' disability compensation as well as for general social welfare payments.

Mr Jamison pointed out that the average military retirement pension, which is indexed at just the CPI and generally helps support a couple in their retirement, is only a little over \$20,000 pa, while the average value of pensions paid to military widows and widowers is only about 5/8ths of that. That is much less than the value of many social welfare or disability pensions and such small pensions cannot be allowed to be eroded further.

It is no wonder that the inquiry of the Senate Community Affairs Committee into cost of living pressures on older Australians has been put on ice until March 2008, said David Jamison.

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