

VETERANS LEGISLATION HARMONISATION SUBMISSION

Arthur [REDACTED]

Please treat this as my formal submission to the Legislation Reform committee.

I have emailed items previously to the committee and also spoken to a very helpful and understanding Luke Brown and other senior staff regarding (in my opinion) a most obvious and urgent need for reform. The matter that affects me (and others) which cannot be fixed currently is this:-

“A person (with 27 years service) who has coverage under DRCA and MRCA only is assessed at over 80 impairment points under MRCA. They apply for eligibility for the Special Rate Disability Payment (SRDP). This is denied due to the conflict with payment of Incapacity payments being paid under DRCA and NOT MRCA (see Section 15 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004.) The Veteran then attains Aged Pension age and no longer receives Incapacity payments from DVA.”

Accordingly, I can NEVER be assessed as SRDP eligible due to the discriminatory clash with DRCA and MRCA.

I am unable to access the following entitlements:-

“I am being denied a ‘TPI’ embossed Gold Card, GST free purchase of a motor vehicle, no limits on some Allied Health and many State based Concessions which require a Gold Card embossed with the letters “TPI”.

The inequity of the current legislation is obvious.

My following suggestion, I submit, can VERY EASILY, overcome all these issues.

I submit and suggest the following:-

“All Veterans who have been assessed at 80+ impairment points under MRCA be automatically granted a Gold Card embossed with the letters “TPI” (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated).”

There would basically be no extra cost to the Government.

This would show all Veterans, the wider community and the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide that the Government is serious in ensuring that most, if not all, Veterans will not fall through some current major cracks in attempting to harmonise the current discriminatory legislation in a most beneficial way.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my suggestion contained in my formal submission.

I can be contacted further on [REDACTED] if required.

Kind regards,

Arthur [REDACTED]