



Wow,

all these years and you guys still cannot change the legislation to actually stop the financial discrimination for DRCA recipients. Truly amazing! Instead you are instigating a system where DRCA and VEA Veterans will have to use an adversarial system to have their claims re assessed or new ones recognized. DVA cannot even process the present number of claims let alone thousands more AND Veterans do NOT need more angst from DVA in there lives. Really dropped the ball on this one to put it politely.

You even mention "entitlement inequity across the tri-Act system" as one of the major themes raised during consultation, but after looking at the revised DRCA, compensation will not be paid in line with military salaries and there is no mention of us receiving the MRCA Remuneration Loading. We are stuck in the much lower WPI indexing regime!

As a bit of history, in October 2001 some bright spark changed DRCA payments from being in line with Military Salaries to being indexed by the WPI. This has cost DRCA recipients greatly in the last 23 years and is COMPOUNDED every year it is not rectified. It is exceedingly cumbersome for DVA staff to calculate and almost impossible for a Veteran to accurately check if their payments are correct. Less than 3 years later the MRCA was brought in with compensation payments linked to Military Salaries. It was touted as "best practice" at the time but no move was made to revert the DRCA compensation payments.

Looks like this is the same now. New system, great for all the "new" claims but useless for us who are already damaged. I do not believe I and many, many other DRCA recipients have grounds for new claims nor do we have sufficient deterioration of existing claimed conditions to have them re assessed. And why should we need to ask to be put on the same footing as other Veterans? It should be automatic and if there is a Veteran who is worse off then they should be grandfathered. Grandfathering all DRCA recipients and keeping them locked out of higher compensation whilst still having to devote DVA staff to monitoring and updating DRCA clients is just ridiculous and completely against one of the major aims of these changes. Simplification for DVA staff and Veterans!

Oh and "Lest We Forget" the thousands of dollars paid to MRCA and supposedly all "new" claims in Remuneration Loading. Seems you did forget and DRCA recipients will not be receiving that either, though as the allowance is paid to compensate for the loss of non salary benefits received whilst serving in the ADF, it is pretty obvious that ALL ex service compensation recipients qualify, not just MRCA and NEW ones!

So thanks again for nothing. Once I checked out those two items I was in such a bad place

I could not bring myself to even look at the rest of your "changes". Probably will not even effect me anyway as I am one of the OLD claims, and we just don't seem to matter. So we will be left behind, forgotten and financially discriminated against.

Thank you for your service really is just a hollow set of words with you lot!

Anyway here are the points as you may be inclined to miss them in my above rant:

1. DRCA recipients no better off (Military Salary indexing and MRCA Remuneration Allowance)
2. DVA staff will still have to use DRCA/VEA legislation until all Veterans under new act (so many, many years if all Veterans are not transferred in one hit).
3. Most DRCA/VEA recipients will not have grounds for new claims/claim assessment (so no transfer to new act and no benefits).
4. Most DRCA/VEA recipients will not know of need to make a new claim or have an old claim reassessed to get onto the new legislation (so no transfer to new act).
5. Making DRCA/VEA recipients make new claims is not a simple solution. It is complicated, resource hungry and adversarial. It will upset people even more with DVA when claims are rejected and they remain on lower compensation (did anyone even look at the manpower involved?)
6. Simple is all Veterans being put on new legislation in one hit. Simple for DVA and Veterans. Also not adversarial which new claims or claim reviews most definitely are.

Daniel [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

P.S. Would be very nice to hear back that you actually have thought of this and DRCA and VEA recipients are not going to be left to fight for even the tiniest improvement in compensaiton.

[REDACTED]

Good morning Daniel,

Further to my recent email about the Government's proposal to simplify veterans' legislation, I am writing to let you know that draft legislation has [now been released for consultation](#).

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill will implement the proposal for a single Act model going forward.

The draft legislation, material to help you understand it and information on the consultation process is on DVA's website at www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform.

I invite you to review the draft legislation and provide any comments you have before 28 April 2024. Submissions can be made [through the website](#), emailed to legislation.reform@dva.gov.au or posted to PO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001.

This consultation process is an important step in implementing a simplified legislative framework that will address long standing complexities in the veterans' compensation and rehabilitation system.

The Government will consider feedback and make any necessary adjustments prior to introducing the legislation into Parliament.

Thank you again for your ongoing interest and engagement with this work.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel