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Dear DVA

I have just attended the first of your Legislative Reform webinars in relation to the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024, and would like to make a submission in relation to DRCA Incapacity payments.

For Veterans who are in receipt of DRCA Incapacity payments prior to the commencement of the new legislation, I have just been educated that post the legislative change, they will remain on their existing DRCA arrangements unless they have a 'break' or 'period off incapacity' payments and then reapply under the new MRCA.

I would like to see this part of the legislation reworked based on the following:

- Likely that some Veterans will simply have a fabricated break from Incaps to only reapply to receive the higher benefit
- The current DRCA Incap arrangements haven't keep up with current times and is difficult for some veterans to maintain a standard of living on those payments
- The 5% nominal superannuation amount is an outdated concept which doesn't support superannuation funds and our governments view on retirement
- Things like household services will become available for VEA veterans, why aren't the DRCA Incaps the same?
- It doesn't simplify the process and address inequity that exists in this space. For example, my husband at 75% (really 70%) of his 2001 wage is at \$59,851 gross, whereas on today's wage at 75% would be approx \$87,375 gross plus other benefits if he was under the MRCA

Solution

- Simply switch everyone's DRCA incaps over to the new MRCA post 1 July 2026
- Have an application process where people can switch over if they choose
- Grandfather the existing amount, provide a top up amount which compensates for the loss of 5% and pays super on the whole amount

Regards,

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