

Statement for consultation on new veterans legislation.

I am responding to requests for consultation on new veterans legislation. I am aware that this is only one step in the process and more changes are likely to occur. It is good that these matters are being investigated however this is a royal commission into veteran suicide and these changes will have zero affect in changing the circumstances that lead to veteran suicide.

The DRCA legislation umbrella ended in early 2000 so the number of people in defense who fall under this legislation and not MRCA as well is effectively ZERO. While integrating DRCA with MRCA will be of benefit to elderly veterans it does nothing at all for the demographic that are suffering and committing suicide. The commission has been established to help those veterans and this recommendation does nothing for them. It should also be said that other than streamlining DVAs administration the last person affected by the DRCA legislation served more than two decades ago and the majority of soldiers who fought in the war on terror overseas and at home fall under the MRCA legislation.

In the war on terror Australia lost under 40 soldiers to the most sophisticated international terrorist organizations that exist on the planet. In contrast we lost more than 2000 to abuse and dereliction of duty and cruel and unusual punishment by the members of DVA and the Australian government. For contrast this is a kill rate orders of magnitude greater than most dangerous enemies that Australia knows off.

When one reads the legislation it provides for medical mental and financial care of veterans. Why then have we lost so many young men and woman that have been able to withstand the rigors of service life as well as the horror of war only to lose them at home. The answer is simple and shocking. DVA has behaved as an insurance company with the primary goal to deny veterans medical care and financial aid at all costs even if that means breaking the law.

80% of DVA decisions are overturned, 80% of DVA denials are over turned.

In my case it took 5 years to establish access to proper care and another 5 years to discover and obtain my entitlements. My family and I suffered greatly during this period as a result of DVA disgusting and traitorous behavior. DVA has lied and broken every law possible to deny me access to my entitlements and medical treatment and are still acting in this matter.

DVA routinely chooses not accept medical professionals reports as a way to deny or delay access to treatment and entitlement. DVA and COMSUPER as a matter of policy attempts to control the speech of doctors by dictating to them how to write their reports and refusing to accept them if they are not word for word despite the information that is being conveyed. This is and always has been a crime under Australian Law.

DVA relies on the fact that their client base are disabled physically and mentally and do not possess the resources to represent themselves. The advocates are made up of mostly elderly Volunteer Australians with extremely limited knowledge and

capacity to assist veterans, there is no regulatory or investigative body to hold DVA and its members to account when they break the law.

In short the problem is not the legislation but the fact that DVA operates counter to its purpose which is to help veterans recover from the most severe trauma. It is a cultural and professional problem that has to do with the attitudes of DVA and AUS government members and the zero accountability for behaving in a criminal fashion.

The commission is made up of a member with FBI training a Judge and a Psychologist. Between these individuals it should be obvious that what is required is the establishment of a paid legal service to combat the culture of DVA and to provide a pathway to access entitlements while at the same time replacing the members of the DVA with new people and holding the members of the last 20 years accountable in court for the laws they have broken and the lives they have taken and destroyed as well as the establishment of an investigatory body staffed by combat veterans with powers to hold DVA accountable for their decisions.

Anything less than this is willful blindness that will allow the current problems of suicide to continue which will lead to a weakening of our country's defense capabilities and tacitly be approving of traitorous and cruel behavior towards Australia and its people. This should be of great concern to those responsible for our security as clearly the last 20 years of this behavior has crippled our recruiting and defense capabilities and will only get worse if not addressed.

I understand the reluctance to hold members of the government accountable by other members of the government, however if the behavior of the last 20 years is allowed to go uncorrected and unpunished then we as a people and a country have effectively become our own most dangerous enemy and we will destroy ourselves as a consequence.

The commission has this one chance to do right by those who protect them and provide them with their freedom. If what has happened is allowed to go unpunished and unchanged then we will all lose what little freedom we have left.

Sincerely

CPL Michael [REDACTED]