



DISABLED VETERANS of AUSTRALIA NETWORK



'Some never wholly return'

To whom it may concern:

Veterans' Legislation Reform Submission.

We believe all living Veterans and their families require to be granted equal benefits, entitlements and compensation for losses incurred in ADF regardless of era of service.

For this to happen the 'three' existing legislations must be examined clause by clause and the best outcome for the Veteran extracted and placed in the reformed legislation. This would ensure all those under the Repatriation system would be granted the best practices and outcomes from the current models. The new Legislation then needs to be examined against 2024 'Australian Insurance Loss Industry' standards, practices, and compliance. This will ensure those of the ADF Veterans benefit from the same community's expectation for fair right and just compensation for losses.

Simply, Veterans expect from Government the same compensation standards that a Trades Union would require for their industrial or commercial workers/members suffering the same losses in disability and earnings.

All Veterans need to be brought up to the same level, the best level. All served in defence of the same Australia. All live in the present 2024. Today no Veteran lives in the 1986 when the VEA was enacted and designed for the benefit of WW2 Veterans entering retirement. Today no

Veteran lives in 2002 when the MRCA was enacted that excludes Veterans from the Vietnam era enjoying the same level of compensation as later Veterans. This time Government must ensure no Veteran is left behind.

Minister Keogh has announced Australia will have 'one' Repatriation Act from 2026. However, he fails to say that he will be retaining the VEA of 1986 for those currently under that Act.

Of DVAs 285,500 clients 242,000 come under the VEA 1986, the oldest and most out of touch with life in 2024 of the tree existing Repatriation Acts yet these Veterans have been excluded from the new Reformed Legislation. These clients constitute 85 per cent of our nations Disabled Veterans, War Widows, and their dependants.

Without the inclusion of all our Veterans in the proposed Reformed Repatriation Legislation (One Act) the Albanese Labor Government stands accused of deceiving our Veterans and being dishonest with the Australian public by pretending to bring the lives of all their defenders up to the acceptable compensation standards in 2024.

The only honest and truthful way forward it to bring all Australian Veterans under the one Australian Repatriation Act.

Disabled Veterans of Australia Network

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