



® **VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
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The Hon Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

1/7/2011

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the members of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) I thank you for your government's support of the Bill re Fairer Indexation of DFRB/DFRDB in the House of Representatives.

I must, however, express our utter disappointment that the support shown in the Lower House was not reflected in the Senate, where it was painfully obvious that the Bill would have been successful had the Labor Senators voted in the same way.

The bottom line is that the Bill was defeated. An impartial observer would wonder why a party which displays such undivided unity of purpose in other matters would permit this to occur. A cynical observer might note that this could only occur if the disparate responses were planned and further remark that that the delay introduced by Senator Xenophon and supported by the Labor Party meant that Labor would hold the balance of power in the Senate when the matter was put to the vote.

The VVAA seeks your support in this overturning this discrimination being shown toward the 57 000 recipients of DFRB and DFRDB Superannuation payments.

Adopting the fairer means of indexation will result in a reduction to the DVA Service Pension where this is being paid to recipients of both DFRB/DFRDB superannuation, due to the means test. As a further offset, in the long term it will keep recipients from entitlement to Centrelink pension supplements. There are also significant errors in the assumptions made by Treasury as well as in their calculations, and these are now being made public.

The Parliamentary Labor Party should also be aware that both DFRB and DFRDB were contributory schemes, with members having no choice but to contribute 5.5% of salary for the entire duration of their service. The Labor Party through then Treasurer Paul Keating transferred the accumulated funds from these schemes into consolidated revenue and in one stroke negated for all contributors, the tax benefits which accrue to contributory funds. No other group of superannuants has been treated in this way.

The members of the VVAA seek your intervention in overturning this discrimination and look forward to an early and favourable outcome to our request to remedy this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you in person as this is an issue of great concern to my members and the ex-service community at large.

**“HONOUR THE DEAD.... But Fight Like Hell for the Living”.**

The VVAA supports the actions and submissions from the Alliance of Defence Service Organisation (ADSO) and by the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) in this matter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ron Coxon', written in a cursive style.

Ron Coxon OAM  
National President