



ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

"FAIR GO!" CAMPAIGN PHASE 2

UPDATE 1/2011 – 6th MAY 2011

- Fair Go Campaign Widens Scope – Young Vets Mental Health
- Coalition's Fair Indexation Bill in the Senate referred to an Enquiry.
 - Submissions to the Enquiry
 - Tanner's "Dark Arts" admission
- Enough is enough – The call to action
- Post Letters to Parliamentarians



UPDATE ON THE FAIR GO CAMPAIGN

A short summary of where we are up to is [here](#)

In Phase 1 we aimed to influence all political parties to support a change to the military superannuation indexation formula. Although successful in gaining the Coalition, Greens and Independents' support we were unsuccessful with the Gillard Labor Government. However, we were successful in raising our profile and having many voters support our cause at the ballot box and in some marginal seats, particularly in Queensland, influenced the result.

In Phase 2 we build on the Coalition, Greens and Independents support in Parliament (Senate & House of Representatives) to legislate a fair indexation. And we will lobby for our other major objectives: [indexation of DVA disability pensions](#) and greater mental health care support for [younger veterans](#) and carers.

Coalition's Fair Indexation Bill in the Senate referred to an Enquiry

The Coalition, true to its policy commitment to us, introduced the Fair Indexation Bill into the Senate where it has been referred to a Senate Enquiry Committee for consideration and report back to the Senate by the 10th May. [Read](#) it here.

Submissions to the Enquiry

We have made [a submission](#) to that Senate Enquiry. The Department of Finance and Deregulation's [submission](#), received after the closure date, continues to defend the Matthews' Report recommendation that CPI is the right indexation formula and states that the costs of any change are against the Government's fiscal responsibility to return the budget to surplus by 2012-2013. We have made a [supplementary submission](#) to challenge their costing.

Although the Gillard Labor Government clings to the Matthews Report as justification for its no change decision, the Report has been widely discredited because of its inaccuracies, inconsistencies and data omissions especially in its costs assessment.

Tanner's "Dark Arts" Admission

The former Finance Minister's admission in his article in the Weekend Australian 30th April - 1 May 2011 casts serious doubt on the reliability of the Finance Department's input to the Matthews Report. [Read the full article here](#)

"Misuse of government spending-information is a favourite artifice.....As a shadow minister and Minister for Finance I became adept at these dark arts using some of what are now the standard tricks employed to maximise political appearances: switching between cash and accrual accounting; using nominal, real or proportion of gross domestic product indicators of spending according to which indicator suited the argument better; classifying yearly spending as capital; making commitments beyond the forward estimate years....."

Enough is Enough – The Call to Action.

It's time for us to stand up and support the Fair Indexation Bill in a public display of strength through an active mail campaign targeting opposing Labor Senators as well as Labor's marginal seat MPs and supporting Green and Independent Senators. We are a vital force in influencing this Bill being passed in the Senate.

Post Letters to Parliamentarians

WE NEED YOU TO ACT NOW. Write a letter of support for the Fair Indexation Bill. Take your pick of one of [the three sample letters](#) or compose your own and post or hand deliver it to your State Labor, Green and Independent Senators and to your federal electorate MP if he or she is a Labor one before the 12th May 2011. [Get their address here](#). Sorry for the late notice.

Do not email the letter as emails are easily ignored or deleted. Under existing parliamentary protocol a letter to a politician must be logged and answered. MPs do take notice of a large number of letters on a particular issue particularly in marginal electorates.

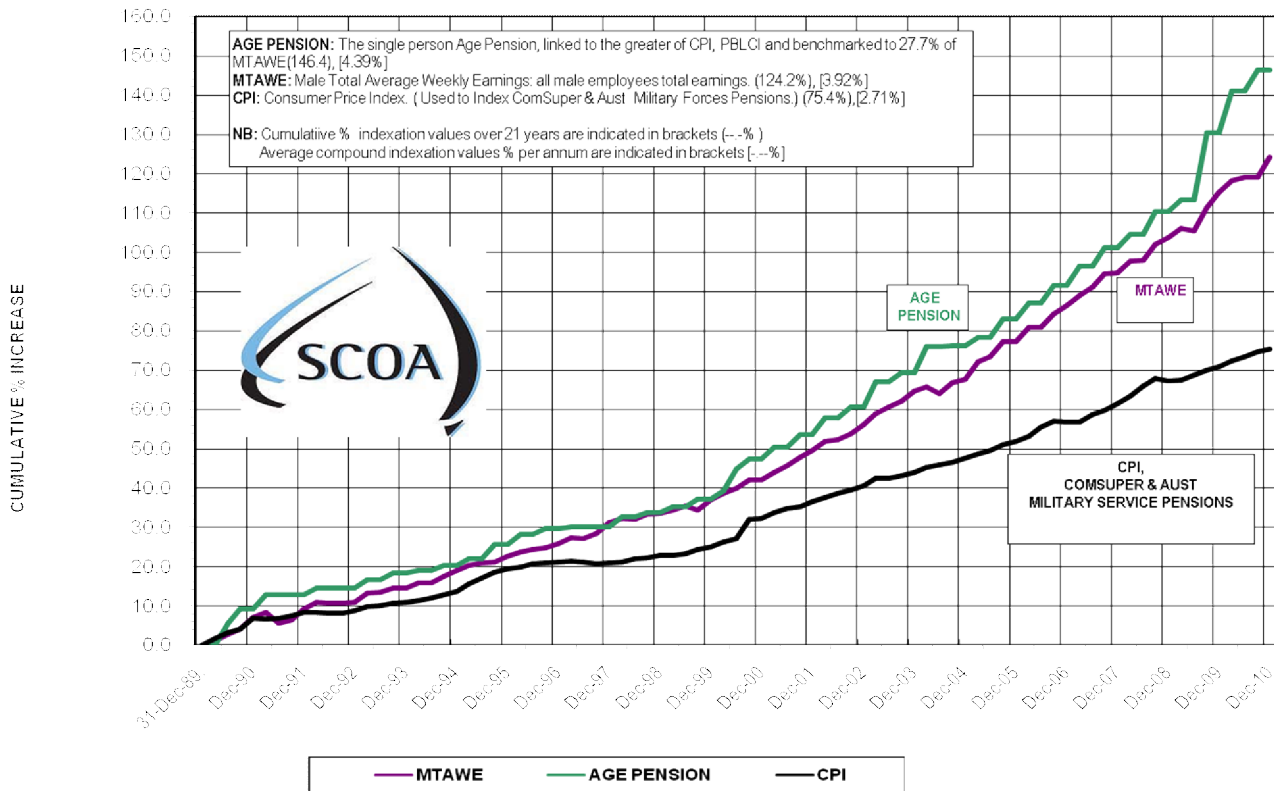
Do it for yourself if you are, or were a contributor to the Superannuation Fund: act now or see your pension continually eroded every year – but don't complain if you fail to act. If you are not a DFRDB recipient or contributors then please act to support our broader defence family. Spend 60c on yours or their future and post a letter.

For a reminder of the inequity and unfairness see the graph below. Our campaign's success is reliant on your support and that of your family, mates and friends.

Over to and many thanks for your support.

Ted Chitham & Kel Ryan
Campaign Directors

CUMULATIVE % INCREASE IN CPI, AGE PENSION, MTAW



This graph is published by the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association, P.O. Box 107 MAWSON ACT 2607. Further information can be found at www.scoa.asn.au
Content is provided by F.J Johnson, BE.FSASM, SCOA NSW Branch (Version 18, last edited 11-04-2011)

IS THIS FAIR?

IT'S TIME TO FIX THIS INJUSTICE NOW