



## **TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA**

*“Different Conflicts – Same Sacrifice”*



# **Federation President’s Report**

**August 2016**

Since my last report I had the privilege of speaking at a General Meeting in West Australia. I thank the President, Committee and Members of West Australia for the generous hospitality and courtesy that was shown to me.

The Federal election has now been finalised and we can now get into our stride again to lobby the old and the new politicians and ask that our Income Replacement Compensation not be eroded and that the Department of Veteran Affairs continue to care for all Veterans in all capacities.

The Hon Dan Tehan MP has again been appointed the Minister for Veteran Affairs. It is hoped that the relationship that the TPI Federation has with Mr Tehan will continue to thrive to the betterment of his constituents – the Veteran community.

We do have a new DVA Opposition Minister. The new minister is the Hon Amanda Rishworth. Amanda has been the member for Kingston, South Australia since 2007. I hope to meet with Amanda as soon as she is available.

The TPI Federation’s Priorities remain the same and that is –

1. Income Replacement Compensation Inadequacy
2. MSBS and DFRB Indexation for Under 55s
3. Pharmaceutical Reimbursement for Non-Operational TPIs
4. Aged Care & Centrelink DSP administration for Veterans to return to DVA.
5. Aged Care – TPI Compensation counted as Income for Non-Operational TPIs
6. State/Territory Rent Assistance for TPIs
7. DVA’s Heart Health Program for Non-Operational TPIs
8. VEA and MRCA Disparity for Funeral Allowance
9. Depleted Uranium
10. Mefloquine use
11. Delays in Obtaining Medical Records Through FOI
12. Degradation of Health Funding and Gold Card Acceptance
13. Disparity of Payments after Death of a single and partnered TPI
14. Hearing Aids
15. Glasses

DVA is currently conducting Hearing Workshops where any issues that DVA clients are having in obtaining hearing aids are being discussed. To date the exorbitant additional funding that DVA clients are being asked to pay over and above the DVA subsidy is extraordinary. All DVA clients must be aware that DVA will cover the cost of any hearing aid implement or accessory that has a clinical need. If the Audiologist cannot validate that clinical need then the DVA client should not pay any additional costs. Further details from the Hearing Workshops will be forwarded to your State/Territory Directors.

If any Member has information or case history that pertains to this or any of the listed priorities please forward them to your President or to me at [federation@tpifed.org.au](mailto:federation@tpifed.org.au) or call 0417 291 546.

Our petition is still struggling along. I am told that the address I have given in previous reports has not always worked. Can you continue to try by googling “change.org tpifed”. This does work for many.

The TPI Federation is still trying to obtain signatures. We currently have, at the time of writing this report, just over 6,000 signatures. This is still disappointing but much improved since my last report. We are still aiming to have a larger proportion of the almost 28,000 TPIs that we have nationally. We really need the support of all TPIs to enhance our contention that our current Income Replacement Compensation needs to be increased from 65% to 100% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. Also please encourage your friends and family to support you and your fellow TPIs by signing this petition.

I would like to thank those TPIs who have taken the time to email or phone me with their issues. I take this opportunity to remind you that all TPIs are invited to submit to me any issue they may have that they feel needs attention. My email address [federation@tpifed.org.au](mailto:federation@tpifed.org.au) or call 0417 291 546.

*Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.  
The most certain way to succeed is  
always to try just one more time.  
Thomas A. Edison*



Ms Pat McCabe OAM

1<sup>st</sup> August 2016