



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Different Conflicts – Same Sacrifice”



Federation President's Report

January 2017

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, safe, healthy and successful New Year.

I thank all the TPIs who contacted me either by email or by phone over the past few months with their individual issues or with information that I have previously asked for about the changes they are seeing with their medical providers.

I now ask for further information that will assist with representations to members of DVA or the Government.

It would appear that there has been some streamlining by the DVA of the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) – i.e. the provision of some of your medications that you have been able to previously receive.

I would appreciate any examples of this and the effect these changes have had on you. All information can be sent to me and will be treated as confidential by emailing federation@tpifed.org.au or calling 0417 291 546.

The major change for many TPIs that has occurred since January 2017 has been the changes to the Assets Test Thresholds and the Taper Rate for your Service Pension or DFISA payments. DVA has provided some information on these changes on their website at <http://bit.ly/2kTrucZ>.

More information, along with an Asset test estimator and a video and podcast can be found at Centrelink's website at <http://bit.ly/2tllLrh>. These changes are the same for Centrelink as they are for DVA. Should you have any issues with these changes please email or phone me.

The TPI Federation has made a submission to the Senate Enquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel. Unfortunately, we were not granted a seat at the enquiry but it is hoped that all Senators and MPs have taken the time to read it. All submissions can be found at <http://bit.ly/2lvR7hIv>. A final report on this enquiry is expected to be tabled at the end of March.

A further Senate Enquiry is on the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Digital Readiness and other Measures) Bill 2016. Should you wish to see the submissions for this enquiry they can be found at <http://bit.ly/2krBo2j>. The TPI Federation did not make a submission to this enquiry, as it was felt that it was directed more toward the DVA claims processes. The Federation, as a rule, does not have any Pension Advocates and it was felt that other Ex-Service Organisations were more qualified to make such a submission. The Federation, though, is watching this piece of legislation very closely.

It should be noted that DVA has made submissions to both enquiries.

Should you have any comments on any of these topics or any other topic please contact me.

To some, an obstacle is an excuse to quit. To others it is an opportunity to grow stronger.

Ms Pat McCabe OAM

Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Ph: 0417 291 546

10th February 2017