



## **TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA**

*“Different Conflicts – Same Sacrifice”*



# **Federation President's Report**

**May 2017**

Another Anzac day has been and gone and, hopefully, you were able to meet up with your mates and remember old times. As stated on the Australian War Memorial website this year –  
*Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service. The spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.*

The Federation was pleased to hear the DVA Secretary, Mr Simon Lewis PSM, state at the Senate Estimates on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 when asked by Senator Gallacher about VAN Office closures “are any of the offices merging with Centrelink over the next 12 months?”, Mr Lewis response was “No”. This will reassure many Veterans and their families that they are being listened to and that the Department is continuing to support the Veteran community, as is their duty.

Due to a number of deaths of TPis in recent weeks, it is evident that not all TPis have their spouses/partners registered with DVA. If your spouse/partner is receiving a DVA Partner Service Pension then they are already registered. If they are not receiving any payments from DVA, it is recommended that the spouse/partner be registered with their Proof of Identity and their personal bank details. Should the TPI pass away this enables DVA to quickly process the War Widow/er claim for them. The Proof of Identity and the registration of the personal bank details can be done at any time prior to the death of the TPI. Please don't leave this unattended to as your spouse/partner will be worse off for it. The delays caused by not doing this is detrimental to the War Widow/er.

At the time of writing this report, the TPI Federation has been invited to attend the Senate Hearing into Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for inquiry and report Suicide by Veterans and Ex-Service Personnel in Perth on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Federation has delivered a submission for this enquiry and a copy of the submission can be obtained from your TPI Association office.

There are a number of Senate Inquiries pertaining to DVA legislation occurring at the moment. There are also two Inquiries referring to other Department's legislation that is relevant to DVA clients. The latter three are for Centrelink Better Management, NDIS and MyAgedCare consultations. The Federation has made submissions to the Centrelink and MyAgedCare consultation and ADSO made a submission to the NDIS consultation. We wait to see if we obtain a hearing on these. It is interesting to note that Amanda Rishworth MP is assisting us with the Centrelink and MyAgedCare inquiries for which we are grateful.

The DVA legislation inquiries – besides the Suicide by Veterans & Ex-Service Personnel Inquiry – are the DVA Digital Readiness Bill, SRCA/DRCA Bill and the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Omnibus) Bill 2017. ADSO is currently drafting a submission on our behalf on the latest Omnibus Bill. This will be made available to the TPI Association offices when available.

This year an election will be held for the position of TPI Federation President. The election for the TPI Federation Secretary is due in September 2018. All financial members of any State/Territory TPI Association is entitled to nominate for either of these positions. Nomination forms will be available from your TPI Association after This year the nominations open on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Should you be interested in nominating for these positions contact your local TPI Association?

Contact by Members to me about their individual issues is proving to be very successful. If you have something that you wish to discuss or if you have any comments on any of the topics discussed in this report or any other topic please contact me.



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