



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Different Conflicts – Same Sacrifice”



Federation President’s Report

October 2015

Fellow TPIs – this is my inaugural Federation President’s Report which I hope to be able to bring to you for each one of your State/Territory’s magazine issues.

By way of introduction my name is Ms Pat McCabe and I am honoured to have been elected as your Federation President for the next two years. I have been the ACT TPI Association President since 2012. I became a TPI in 2004 and was the ACT Secretary for the following 10 years. I have an extensive knowledge of the Veteran community having served on many committees and attended many DVA and local government forums. This experience, I feel, will hold me in good stead to assist all TPIs in your quest for fair compensation and to maintain our hard fought for entitlements and benefits.

I acknowledge the hard work of our Immediate Past President, Tony Mogridge, who worked tirelessly to keep the Federation on an even keel and to maintain the Government’s interest in our issues. His efforts are truly appreciated.

As well as a regular newsletter for all TPIs, I intend having an open forum available for all TPIs to contact the Federation with any issue they feel needs to be brought to our attention. I have opened an email address for this purpose – federation@tpifed.org.au – and I hope all TPIs will utilise this medium. All sensible suggestions, comments and positive contributions will be gratefully accepted. Needless to say that if any inappropriate comments are sent to this outlet that they will not be responded to. I would like to encourage responsible, mature discussions on any issue that affects TPIs. The Federation needs to improve their communication with all Members and this is the initial method for this to occur. I am also available to discuss your issues on 0417 291 546 any time Monday – Thursday 10am – 3pm EST & EDST.

If you have a topic that you are particularly concerned about you can put it into a submission format and send it directly to your State/Territory Presidents or to this email address for attention by all the Directors. The Directors will be in constant contact via electronic means so that your issues, if urgent, can be addressed immediately.

The Federation has also started a Facebook page at – www.facebook.com/tpifed - and it is recommended that you remain informed through this medium. We also have a YouTube page and it can be found at <http://bit.ly/1Oy4AiE>. This appears to be a strange address but it does work and it will take you to our YouTube page. We also have a Twitter account at www.twitter.com/tpifed. Please visit these sites and keep in touch with us. We want your feedback. The site will be monitored and inappropriate postings will be deleted. We are also looking to improve and modernise our website which should be completed in the near future.

The Federation began a strong media campaign on the 17th August. The campaign aims to improve the financial situation for all TPIs. The Federation’s premise appears to be of some contention within some in the Veteran community. All the Federation is asking of the DVA Minister is to make a structural adjustment that only requires a Ministerial Directive – i.e. no change to any legislation – for all TPIs to receive a more equitable compensation for loss of income as a result of their Defence Service wounds and injuries. This has been explained to ex-Prime Minister Abbot and our previous DVA Minister, Michael Ronaldson. The responses received were inappropriate and very disappointing. A further letter will be sent to Prime Minister Turnbull and the DVA Minister Stuart Robert MP.

The Federation’s position is that the TPI Compensation payment is made up of the 100% General Rate plus the Above General Rate. With the 100% of the General Rate it is possible for a Veteran to continue to be employed full time while maintaining a superannuation fund and also to continue to build assets to provide for

their retirement. The Above General Rate is paid as compensation for not being able to build that financial security through employment. There are a number of instances where the two divisions of the TPI compensation payment are discussed. If you would like copies of these instances please request this through the email address above.

Below you will see a table that will explain it in civilian language for those members of the public (including your families and friends) who do not understand our DVA language. The table explains that should you have a car accident or industrial accident you would then go to a civilian court of law and obtain compensation for “pain and suffering” along with additional compensation for “loss of income”. This “loss of income” compensation is regardless of your financial status at the time. This example relates to the DVA equivalent of compensation for “pain and suffering” being equal to the General Rate and “loss of income” being equal to the Above General Rate. The Above General Rate is not rated on any previous employment prospects or income. It is a flat rate. Over the last 65 years this has diminished from 85% of the tax adjusted minimum wage to the current 65% of the tax adjusted minimum wage. The Federation believes that the Above General Rate – i.e. the compensation for loss of earnings – should at least be equal to the Minimum Wage. Shouldn’t all TPIs be compensation for the most basic income index?

TPI Income Replacement

DVA Language	$\text{General Rate} - 10-100\% + \text{Above General Rate} = \text{TPI Compensation Payment}$
Civilian Language	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> \downarrow Pain & Suffering </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> \downarrow + Economic Loss </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> $=$ Full Compensation </div> </div>

There are some in the Veteran Community that talk about the possible effect this would have on their Service Pension or their DFISA Income Support pension. These payments are income support which is Welfare. Welfare is paid at the whim of the Government and has no effect on our Compensation. Welfare payments are based on an income and assets test by either DVA or Centrelink. The Federation is only speaking of Compensation – not Welfare. Don’t be confused by the two – they are two separate payments which have no relationship to the each other.

This is why the Federation began an online petition in the hope of obtaining many thousands of signatures that could be put to the Government as proof of the support that the people of Australia (Veterans & the general public) have for our plight.

The Federation is asking for the support of all TPIs and their families and friends in signing your petition. Your petition can be found at <http://chn.ge/1UyISuH>. Please circulate this to all your contacts and ask them to support you.

You expect your Federation to support you; this is one way you can show support for your Federation and your fellow TPIs.

I look forward to meeting many TPIs in the future and in assisting you with your needs.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." --Helen Keller



15th Oct 2015