

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 July 2022 3:05 PM
To: Superannuation; [REDACTED]
Subject: Treasury Laws Amendment (Measures 4 for a later sitting) Bill 2022: Taxation of military superannuation benefits

Treasury, [REDACTED]

The government (under the Morrison government) and continued on under the current government, decided to amend legislation (as outlined in draft bill) to shield the government from further financial exposure as a result of the Douglas decision.

The government has portrayed this in a way to say they are trying to protect veterans who 'may' be impacted negatively by the Douglas decision.

From my understanding, and it is very limited due to my deteriorating mental health as a result of suffering PTSD, Depression and a multitude of physical disabilities caused by my service in the army is that no veteran would be worse off 'overall' because any possible fortnightly disadvantage would be returned to the veteran at the completion of their tax return each financial year.

The truth of the matter is that the government is trying to shield its exposure to hemorrhaging money to repay veterans because of amended tax returns.

This, by extension, then costs the government money by having to repay overtaxed amounts, further repayments to veterans/spouses via FTB.

If the government was genuine about this legislation at least have the integrity to be honest about the real reasons behind the change of legislation.

Going to the legislation itself, should the government make the proposed amendments to the legislation, the following will be the severe impacts it will put on to vulnerable veterans/families;

- creating a tax offset to ensure veterans who are currently better off under the Douglas decision will impair their ability to get finance for homes/personal loans etc, it will reduce their fortnightly net pay which will in turn reduce their borrowing capacity, negatively affecting their ability to provide for themselves/families

- you will be effectively telling veterans [REDACTED] because veterans who fought for this through the federal court and won, only to have their government say 'sorry but you might be right but we don't really care about that, because it will cost us too much financial pain

- you mess with veterans' victories [REDACTED] because they have had a victory only to have that victory torn away by the government (who is supposed to be supporting them but is actually failing them at every chance)

- it will complicate the tax affairs of veterans who are already vulnerable to financial stress because of being kicked out of the military for serving their nation but only to be broken and swept out the door

- if you're changing the legislation to ensure no veteran is disadvantaged, what impact is the legislation going to have on those currently receiving their DSB under the Douglas decision and have seen a substantial increase in their take home income, what disadvantage are you going to cause to those veterans

- don't try and fix your mistakes by creating new legislation under the premise of 'wanting to help veterans' you're not helping veterans at all, you're denying them their actual entitlement to income but because it will cost the government more through repayments of amended tax and FTB you're creating legislation to help the government not veterans

- if you want to help veterans, give them the support they need/want, stop making our lives hell, we already had to deal with being treated like [REDACTED] in the military, we don't need to be continually treated like [REDACTED] for the rest of our lives

- just accept the current legislation, leave those who are currently being paid under the Douglas decision as is, if needed create separate legislation to ensure no veteran is worse off but leave those that are currently being paid as a 'lump sum' alone

My apologies if this doesn't make much sense, but when you're taking 5 different medications each day to be able to function, this is the result.

Please just leave us veterans alone, the government only does stuff to benefit the government, at least be honest about it

Regards

[REDACTED]