



# FEDERAL POLICY

## RETURNED VETERANS

## AND SERVING DEFENCE PERSONNEL

The relationship between veterans and defence personnel and the Government has fallen to an unacceptable level. Therefore One nation believes that the process of communication and care must be overhauled. Why is it that Government Agencies treat our service personnel so badly? A National Council of organizations representing ex-service and serving defence personnel would be established. This Council should meet at least five times per year to supply advice and opinion to Defence and Veterans ministers and their departmental chiefs. TPI and DVA benefits have sustained severe shortfalls for many years due to adjustments being unfairly linked to the CPI (consumer price index). The CPI measures price variation, not cost of living, and an appropriate new measure would be adopted in consultation with the newly formed National Council. In an endeavour to rectify previous wrongs, One Nation would provide a catch up for TPI and DVA pensions of \$70 and \$39 per fortnight; respectively for the previous 3 years or the date of discharge whichever period is shorter.

## ONE NATIONS POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE:-

### Attention to definition

1. The re-assessment of what determines war service to be addressed by the newly appointed council and any findings adopted by parliament.
2. The re-definition of clinical determination as to any service caused disabilities or trauma, including a health study into veteran's health needs and their effect on their family.
3. Enhancement of special services to deal with suicide prevention.
4. Increase of white card entitlements to bring them inline with other compensation providers.

## Across the board benefit upgrade and taxation

1. Any lump sum payment for injury while in service should be tax-free and have no effect on future pensions or income.
2. Superannuation should be tax exempt in line with standard practice and would remain tax-exempt from the recipient's date of discharge.
3. All service superannuation to include a self funded death benefit starting at \$40,000 and indexed yearly to CPI during the self-contribution term. The beneficiary being nominated by the holder.
4. The option to transfer any superannuation benefits to another superannuation fund upon retirement / release from service.

## Veterans Benefits

1. Return all veterans' services back to being under the control of the Armed Forces.
2. Reintroduction of all benefits that have been removed by successive Government.  
E.g.\* the reintroduction of the repat hospital day care program that existed between 1998 and 2005.
3. Replace the War Service Home Loan Scheme with an Armed Service Home Loan Scheme, one only per individual, with a maximum interest rate of 3%. Loan repayments to be made at a fixed rate and allow for the early payout of the home loan without penalty.
4. Allow equity loans for home improvements also at 3%.
5. The Department of Defence shall maintain a scheme for yards and perform home maintenance for aged and disabled ex-service persons who are deemed physically incapable of doing so themselves. These services shall be available to ex-service persons at 1/3 of market rates.
6. Scrap the war widow's pension and replace it with a Veteran's Widow/Widower's Pension which would be tax exempt while retaining the Widow/Widower's normal aged pension entitlements.
7. Ensure top priority and preference to be given to ex-servicemen and women in their employment applications.
8. Ensure the right to conditional gun ownership, as well as the right to bear arms for self, family and property protection. Licenses and applications subject to qualification safeguards.
9. Ensure that Government employees treat ex-service men and women with the utmost respect.
10. Where a device is required to provide mobility to the veteran, the repair of such device shall be free of cost to the veteran and shall be repaired and returned promptly from the mobility repair centre to the user.
11. Provide reasonably priced rental homes specially equipped with wheelchair access, larger bedrooms and bathrooms with non-slip flooring to cater for disabled ex-servicemen and women.

## [Access to Veterans Benefits](#)

One Nation believes that the onus of proof in determining access to Veterans Benefits lies with the Government. It is the Government for instance who should prove that it has provided the duty of care applicable to the lessening of dangers faced by servicemen at home or abroad in the course of their duties- not vice versa!

The fact that Australia has not declared war against another country shall no longer be accepted as a valid reason or excuse for refusing to allow benefits to servicemen who have served in that country.

Service personnel acting in the service of this country or have been assigned in anyway to work in another capacity (e.g. part of a United Nations Policing Body), then those people are still part of Australia's Defence Service in the event of injury or damages of any sort. The servicemen remain eligible at all times at home or overseas for the full range of Service Benefits and recognition provided by this Country.

### [RETURNED VETERANS AND SERVING DEFENCE PERSONNEL](#)

[In consultation with Veteran's.](#)

### [VETERANS BENEFITS](#)

[In consultation with Veteran's.](#)

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BACK!***

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