



## TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

*“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”*



# Federation President's Report

April 2020

In my last report in January, I predicted that “2020 promises to be yet another very full year for the TPI Federation and all TPI/SRs and their families”. Little did we all know the effects of a pandemic combined with a financial crisis would have on our lives just two months later.

It is most important that all Veterans, and your families, remember that Open Arms is available to you all should you be finding it hard to cope during these harsh times. Please call **1800 011 046** for the mental health needs of you and your family. No Veteran or Veteran's family is ever alone.



The Prime Minister has kept us advised of the situation on a regular basis and the new apps will also help to keep us informed. DVA has advised *“Maintaining continuity of services to the veteran community is a priority, together with ensuring the health and wellbeing of our staff and we want to make it as easy as possible for veterans to find the latest COVID-19 news, health advice and economic support available. Government shopfronts are classified as essential services and, for the time being, DVA's VAN offices remain open to members of the veteran community. However, we strongly suggest that members of the veteran community should consider their need to visit a VAN office in person. If the query can be managed over the phone, email or internet please call DVA on 1800 555 254 or lodge a query via the website.”* Should you need a reminder of any of the reams of information that have been forthcoming, I suggest you go to <https://bit.ly/2xgbmKs> where DVA will keep you advised of all the DVA relevant issues and <https://bit.ly/2UpqMFr> for all the Prime Minister's media releases.

There are also couple of apps available that can keep you involved. The ‘What'sApp’ app is recommended with a phone number of 0400 253 787. This app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Another app is the ‘Coronavirus Australia’ app. These two apps are produced by the Australian Government and the information contained within them is totally reliable more so than some of the ‘fake news’ type on the internet.

The TPI Federation Directors have decided that the Nation has to pull together and support all. Therefore, the Federation Director's decision to put on hold all the items included in the Priority Action List that the Federation has been prosecuting for a number of years is in the hope of assisting the Government to assist the entire population.

The major item on hold is of course the TPI Economic Loss Compensation campaign that would have only cost the Government a mere \$240m per annum. The other campaign of major relevance is the hearing aid issue. The TPI Federation has been asking the Department and the Government for a number of years to honour their obligation to Veterans in providing full compensation for the Veterans' hearing loss medical requirements. The Government has failed to honour that obligation and owing to the current health and financial crisis this issue will also be placed on hold for the foreseeable future.

There is an exception to this new position. The TPI Federation has asked the Minister, thanks to a suggestion from one of our Members, for the pharmaceutical full Safety Net benefits to be enacted for all TPI/SRs as a means of releasing some of the current financial constraints. Should the Government approve this, this would mean that regardless of how many scripts each TPI/SR has had for the year-to-date, then your account would be classified as having had 48 scripts and the eligibility for free medication would be enacted. It is hoped that in this Anzac month that the Federal Government will find it suitable to gain this concession for TPI/SRs Veterans and their families. The benefit of this financial assistance to TPI/SRs for such a measure would be appreciated by all TPI/SRs.

A quick reminder that my position as President of the TPI Federation is up for re-election this year. As usual, I invite any financial TPI Association Member to think about helping out their mates. If you are interested in applying, the procedure and paperwork is available from your State/Territory offices. Please contact them for further details.

The TPI Federation is proud that, again, the Veterans, young and old, are protecting the Australian population and assisting the Australian Government. Again, the Veterans, are protecting and supporting Australia and their people as only they know how to. The TPI Federation is proud of its Members and their families for this support.

The Australian Veterans are supporting those who no longer have employment or have had their lives turned upside down by the social isolation as a result of the current health and financial concerns. By placing our very important issues on hold – or placing them in hibernation – you are helping the Government and the population to achieve what they have to achieve to return to our normal way of life.

The following has been provided by DVA in relation to how to commemorate this year's Anzac Day –

Due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the Australian Government has [cancelled overseas Anzac Day ceremonies for 2020](#) on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, near Villers-Bretonneux in France, including the Australian service at the 'Digger' Memorial, Bullecourt, Hellfire Pass in Thailand, Sandakan in Malaysia and Isurava in Papua New Guinea.

The Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial will be broadcast live; however, will not be open for public attendance. Please follow Government health advice when considering your commemoration options for Anzac Day. Lest We Forget.

Please stay well and don't forget to get your flu shot.



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