



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

October 2019

2020 promises to be yet another very full year for the TPI Federation and all TPI/SRs and their families. Our thoughts are with all those, and especially TPI/SRs, who have been adversely affected by the disasters of the end of 2019 and now the beginning of 2020. It is not only those TPI/SRs who have been directly affected, but also those who have been psychologically affected by the scenes on TV and social media as a result of what they have seen and heard, day after day, during this crisis.

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.



The Partners of Veterans have an information sheet available for all NSW Veterans, War Widows and Partners of Veterans. This is available on the TPI Federation Facebook page. The TPI Federation thanks that Partners of Veterans for collating and sharing this information.

As of 1st January 2020, the PBS and the RPBS Safety Net threshold has been adjusted. From 1 January 2020, you pay up to \$41.00 for most PBS medicines or **\$6.60** if you have a concession card. The amount of co-payment is adjusted on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This will now mean that as of 1st January 2020 there will be a requirement for 48 scripts before the instigation of the Safety Net Threshold. thresholds have been lowered:

- from \$390.00 to **\$316.80** for concessional patients
- from \$1550.70 to \$1486.80 for general patients.

The ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars have been announced for 2020. If you have any family members or friend who are interested in attending a Seminar please contact your local TPI Association for dates and times. All Welfare and Compensation Officers are also welcome to attend.

Consumers can now apply for an aged care assessment online. A new online form is available on the My Aged Care website that allows consumers or someone acting on their behalf to:

- register with My Aged Care
- apply for their first assessment online.

The form can be completed in your own time as an alternative to calling the My Aged Care contact centre. Visit the My Aged Care website for information about how consumers can now apply for an assessment at <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/assessment>.

The TPI Federation has, again, written to the Prime Minister with regard to the on-going campaign for a fair and equitable economic loss compensation. It has been estimated by DVA that approximately 50,000 DVA Veterans and War Widows have been affected by the recent disasters. It is estimated that at least 10% of these are TPI/SRs.

For these Veterans to still only receive 61.9% of the tax-adjusted Minimum Wage for their inability to ever work again, and now on top of the potential to have to rebuild their lives without any appropriate compensation is most disappointing. The almost 7-year campaign to gain justice for our TPI/SRs needs to be addressed by the Prime Minister now. These Veterans need to have a more correct compensation so that it is more reflective of a 'living wage'.

The letter to the Prime Minister can be found on the TPI Federation Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tpifed>. All comments would be appreciated.

Finally, I revisit the hearing aid issue. Just prior to Christmas, following a meeting with the DVA Secretary, Liz Cosson AM CSC, it was announced that the Secretary will hold a DVA Secretary's Hearing Aid Round Table in the early part of 2020. This has now been scheduled to be held in early February – as the DVA Secretary had promised in December. Representatives from a number of ESOs, Department of Health, Hearing Aid Providers and Veterans will be invited to attend. A report on this meeting will be provided in the next issue of this magazine.

Please pass this along to your Veteran and War Widow friends and families. They must know that they –
NEVER, NEVER, EVER – pay for their hearing aids.

If there are any problems with obtaining fully subsidised hearing aids please contact me.



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