



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

January 2021

Happy New Year to you and your families and I hope this year is better for you all than last year was for so many.

Unfortunately, over the last number of months there have been numerous scurrilous emails circulated to many, many Veterans and their families, along with many politicians and DVA staff, that have attempted to bring the TPI Federation, as well as your Executive and Board of Directors, into disrepute. This issue needs to now be addressed. The statements in these emails are based on ill-informed information, data and unfounded preconceptions – that are not factual. This is most unfortunate and disappointing as a united Veteran community is far more beneficial to their fellow Veterans than this type of unproductive and destructive commentary.

The TPI Federation welcomes, and responds, to all constructive, and courteous, comments/suggestions from all TPI State/Territory Associations and their Members. The TPI Federation has also invited all TPI Association's Members to make submissions to represent their views/suggestions at any time. This can be made either directly with your State/Territory Association or directly to the contact details that reside at the end of this report.

It should be noted that all Veterans are entitled to their personal points of view, even if they differ from others, and all that is asked, is that all courtesies be applied in your representations/submissions to everyone, including the TPI Federation and the Board of Directors. This courtesy will, in turn, be reciprocated. A well-constructed submission is more beneficial to all your fellow Veterans!

It is most regrettable, that on the 4th August 2020, TPI Victoria felt it necessary to resign from the TPI Federation. Their Committee's inopportune decision disenfranchised their many Members from enabling the TPI Federation to continue to facilitate their issues at a national level. It is hoped that this can be restored in the very near future.

The TPI Federation also invites all TPI/SRs to be a Member of any one of the State/Territory Associations. Remember, it is not essential for any TPI/SR to belong to the State/Territory Association where you reside.

With the assistance of the Federation Directors, the Federation has been successful in the advocacy, on your behalf, of the many issues and they have been directed to many politicians over the last few years. Recently, together with the Partners of Veterans Association (PVA), a submission was presented to the DVA Minister on the Productivity Commission recommendation that the Gold Card should be removed. The TPI Federation and PVA (along with many other Veterans and their families) requested that this recommendation be rejected. Thankfully, it was announced at the last Federal Budget that this recommendation will no longer be considered.

The current list of issues that the TPI Federation's Directors are advocating for, includes the Productivity Commission's recommendation to remove the option for the MRCA, TPI equivalent, the SRDP. The Veterans option to select the SRDP was a vital option and a major issue that our past-President, Blue Ryan, fought hard for in the years ~1998-2004. At the end of that fight the option for the younger Veterans to select the safety net of the SRDP has since been available to them. This will be a major issue for this year, in the hope that the younger Veterans entitlements are not diminished as have many other entitlements and compensation benefits under all three of the Veterans' Acts.

The TPI Federation has had meetings with many, many politicians, including the Prime Minister. The meeting with the Prime Minister in March 2019 ultimately initiated the *'Independent Review into the TPI Payment'*, by Mr David Tune AO PSM and, even though it did not achieve the result we wanted, it was another step in the process of achieving our aims for a fair and equitable 'economic loss' compensation, which is currently 61.9% of the minimum wage. The work that the TPI Federation Board accomplishes for all TPI/SR State/Territory Association's Members on many issues is extremely vast and will be ongoing into the near future.

The Hearing Aid issue is one such issue and it is not going away. DVA and the Government have still not accepted their responsibilities in the provision of the 'clinically' needed compensation hearing aids. The Department of Health Hearing Services Program Review has delivered an interim advice to Government (and can be found at <https://bit.ly/39TFNWJ>) that did not mention Veterans once or take into account the submission made to them by the TPI Federation. The Government has continued to ignore the Veterans additional compensable needs for too long. If you are having difficulties with your hearing provider please advise the TPI Federation at the contact details below.

The TPI Federation is holding its annual March Congress from the 17th to the 19th March 2021. Due to the continuing COVID uncertainties, this Congress will be both face-to-face, in Canberra for those who can travel, and also via Zoom for those who cannot. Speak to your local State/Territory Association if you wish to attend as an Observer.

The TPI Federation is also holding the annual Executive election this year. The alternate elections are on even numbered years for the National Secretary, and odd numbered years for the National President. This year the election will be for the TPI Federation's National President's position. As usual, I invite all financial State/Territory Association's, who are members of the TPI Federation, to advise their Members of the procedure to submit an election nomination form in accordance with Section 16 of the TPI Federation Constitution. Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 17th August 2021.

This year I again invite any TPI/SR DVA Veteran or their family to contact your State/Territory Office, or myself, should you have any issue of concern to you.



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