



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

October 2018

Firstly, I must apologise to any Members who were offended by my remarks in relation to the ‘VC – Australia Remembers’ book. The wording ‘*our heroic 100 VC winners*’ was offensive to some of you. VCs are ‘*awarded*’ not ‘*won*’ and I should have been more circumspect with my language in this instance.

It seems that some headway has been made in the area of Hearing Services and Audiologists. DVA has now produced a new, plain English Fact Sheet for Hearing Services for Veterans. It can be found at <https://bit.ly/2PCZrem>. By the time this report has been printed, the new Fact Sheet for Hearing Services Providers will be available. The number for this Fact Sheet has not yet been allocated, but if you look at the ‘HIP XXX’ area of the Fact Sheet listing at <https://bit.ly/2zGKq5v>, you will find it.

Any Hearing Service that is additional to the basic Hearing aids or appliance can be provided with the Prior Approval being processed. The Prior Approval Form can be found at <https://bit.ly/2NPNPr>. I would suggest that you print both Fact Sheets (HSV 222 & HIP XXX) and the approval form, as well as this letter, and take them with you to your Hearing appointments.

I wish to thank those TPIs from around Australia who contacted me, or arranged for their Audiologist to contact me, and enabled this successful outcome. I also wish to thank the DVA staff who persevered with me in establishing the new Fact Sheets and principles surrounding the Hearing Services policy. Should there be any further issues, all TPIs and Audiologists are welcomed to call DVA or myself for further clarification.

REMEMBER – NEVER, EVER PAY FOR YOUR HEARING REQUIREMENTS

We have a new campaign that we need to prosecute since the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison MP, announced the introduction of a Royal Commission into the MyAgedCare system. The Federation has already been called upon to contribute to the proposed Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission. It is hoped that the Veteran’s issues are considered in the final Terms of Reference. I will keep you up-to-date on how the Royal Commission will affect Veterans, and especially TPIs, as it progresses. It is important to remember that the MyAgedCare system affects both the older and younger Veterans. There are a number of younger Veterans who reside in the Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) because of their Defence caused wounds or injuries. It is intended that the TPI Federation will be constructing a submission to the Royal Commission once the Terms of Reference are announced. In the meantime, you can assist me by relating any issues you, or your family, have had with the current MyAgedCare system. I need to know if you have been denied your DVA benefits because of the RACF’ contracts, or for any other reason. Any details of such issues, or other issues, you think should be related to the Royal Commission can be sent to me by phone or email at the details listed below.

DVA is currently conducting a review into the Rehabilitation Appliance Program (RAP). If you feel any issues should be considered by the review and if you believe an item should be added or removed from the current RAP Schedule can you contact me?

DVA will shortly begin a review on Transport and the Booked Car service that they provide for Veterans. Can you provide information on this should you have any issues that need to be referred to them. I will advise when this review begins.

I thank the TPI Federation Directors for their attendance and contributions to the TPI Congress that was held in late September. Thanks is also given to the politicians who assisted the Congress with their attendance. They

include the DVA Minister, Darren Chester MP, Senators Jim Molan, Linda Reynolds and Claire Moore and Andrew Wilkie MP.

The following was posted on our Facebook page following the Congress –

‘The TPI Federation thanks the support given by Senator Jim Molan in assisting the Federation in having the DVA Minister acknowledge at our Congress on Friday, that "in principle agreeing that there is a step up required" in line with the Federation's claim for fair and equitable economic loss compensation.

The TPI Federation also thanks the DVA Minister, Darren Chester for his support of our claim and we hope that, with his support, the Cabinet will see the wisdom of this in the very near future. 28,000 of this country's most disabled Veterans, the TPI/SRs, await their response.

We have come a long way with this campaign over the last six years and now we await the 'will of the Government' to prevail upon us.’

I also thank by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Secretary, and her staff, for the contribution and assistance given to the TPI Federation in enabling the Congress to be so successful. It is all the more successful with the congenial collaboration of all involved.

The TPI Federation congratulates all the athletes attending and competing the Invictus Games and wish them well for their future endeavours.

I wish all TPIs and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



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