



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

October 2019

The TPI Federation thanks the Members of Parliament, DVA Minister Chester MP, the Hon Ben Morton MP, Phillip Thompson OAM MP, and the Hon Andrew Wilkie MP and Senators, Jacqui Lambie, Eric Abetz, David Fawcett and Linda Reynolds CSC who gave of their valuable time to attend our recent National Congress and speak to, and listen to, our Directors.

Shayne Neumann MP was unavailable during the Congress but I have met with since the Congress and discussed the same issues with him as we did with the other politicians.

The National Congress's continue to grow in importance and value to all TPI/SRDPs due, in the main, to the number of politicians, and the Department, who view it as highly valuable to sit at our table and express their views and also listen to each and every State/Territory Director and their individual issues. The TPI Federation is able to show to them a united front of a major Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) that it is, and how together we can progress issues, major and minor, for the betterment of all TPI/SRDPs. United we stand I thank all Members for supporting your Directors in achieving and maintaining this objective.

The National Congress was very successful and we welcomed the two new Victorian Directors to the table. I hope they found it informative and productive. Each State and Territory Director will be providing you with their report on the Congress so I won't duplicate it here. Should you have any questions please contact your Director in the first instance or myself.

The Directors were able to discuss the frustration of all TPIS with regard to the long-awaited result of the Tune Review. You will recall the Prime Minister's election promise to review the TPI 'economic loss' Compensation. The Prime Minister did commence this review immediately upon being re-elected. The Terms of Reference for that review stated that the final report must be available as at 31st August. I am reliably informed that the report was on the Prime Minister's desk at 5pm on the 31st August. We have asked all the politicians that we spoke to at the National Congress to ask the Prime Minister to release that report and, hopefully, provide the nation's 28,000 TPI/SRDPs of his decision on the review. It is now October and still we wait. Prime Minister you promised the review which you have done, but you did not promise to advise the result. We ask that you consider the needs of all TPI/SRDPs and advise us of the result of this most important review.

The commencement of the contentious 12-Treatment Cycle requirements for DVA clients began on the 1st October. This means that Allied Health Providers, i.e. Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists or Psychologists (TPIS have an exemption for Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiologists), must meet the new requirements. Therefore, after every 12 treatment sessions, or every 12 months (whichever happens first), the Allied Health Provider must write a report to the Veteran's GP. The GP then reviews that report and decides if a further referral should be extended to that provider or if a referral to a different provider should be made. This is not required for dental or optical providers. A number of ESOs have mounted campaigns to have this new requirement cancelled.

Should you have any issues regarding this new requirement, can you please let me know so that they can be addressed for you.

I take this opportunity to thank all those TPIS and TPI families who have contacted me over the last year and who have helped all TPIS with the many issues that have been put before DVA in the hope of obtaining a more wholesome and wellbeing life style for all of you. I wish every TPI and their family a happy Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Finally, I revisit the hearing aid issue. The Veteran community seems to be slowly learning of their entitlements.

The hearing aid issue was mentioned to every politician who attended the national Congress. Senator Reynolds was able to say that she would investigate the issue. It was put to her that if the Defence personnel were able to obtain fully subsidised hearing aids for the ADF members then the Veteran community should also be able to utilise that system. The Senator's office has subsequently made an appointment in the coming weeks to discuss this.

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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