



## **TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA**

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

### **Important Notice to All TPI/SR Members**

The TPI Federation has never denied the entitlement for Operational Veterans to have a lower Standard of Proof for their War related wounds or injuries. This has never been disputed by the TPI Federation who has always maintained, and will continue to do so, that Active Service is a most important contribution by those who have served in any Operational area. This also remains a constant in all the Veteran’s Legislations Acts where financial compensation requires a lesser standard of proof than for non-Operational service. This is how it should be – now and always. It is the health compensation that the TPI Federation maintains must remain equal for all Totally & Permanently Incapacitated/Special Rates (TPI/SR) – ‘Operational’ and ‘non-Operational’ Veterans.

The concept of “A Veteran is a Veteran” was first canvassed, as a concept, when the then Regular Defence Force Welfare Association (RDFWA), in 2003, initiated the “Military Accord” proposal. This proposal was finally accepted by Government, and legislated, under the new title of the “Military Covenant” in 2019.

Blue Ryan’s, our esteemed past-TPI Federation President and Vietnam Veteran, statement given in evidence to the Senate hearing on the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004, as reported in Hansard, said:

*“We believe there should be no differentials in impairment or lump sum payments to personnel or dependants based on whether or not an injury or death was the result of warlike, non-warlike or peacetime service. An injury is an injury and a death is a death, no matter how it happened or where it occurs. It makes no difference to a wife whether the husband was killed in training in the high plains of North Queensland or fighting in Afghanistan”*

Once a Veteran has been assessed and the appropriate financial compensation has been awarded it is then, and only then, that the status of a Veteran should be considered. It is the policy of the TPI Federation that after the appropriate legislation for ‘Operational’ or ‘non-Operational’ entitlements have been decided, that all further considerations of ‘Operational’ or ‘non-Operational’ benefits should be equal. When an ‘Operational’ Veteran breaks a leg then it is the medical condition itself that is the same as the ‘non-Operational’ Veteran who also breaks a leg and requires the same medical treatment.

The difference is that claims assessments have always remained distinct, whereas the medical and personal requirements of each and every TPI/SR Veteran should be identical. The TPI Federation is not trying to change anything that has been in operation, and has gone uncontested, for some time.

All Veterans served their country proudly in a number of capacities over the many generations of Veterans. Each and every one of you, and them, signed your enlistment papers, or were conscripted, knowing that you then belonged to the Government for them to do with you what they wished. If you went to a war zone then that’s where you went. If you were asked to stay home then that’s where you went. Those at home were deprived of their basic human rights of ‘freedom of choice’ as was the ‘Operational’ Veteran.

All Veterans were at the beck-and-call of the Government-of-the-day to serve in any, and all, capacities they were qualified for and were called to do. This is what makes all Australians proud of all Veterans. How can all Australians show their pride in their Veterans if Veterans themselves don’t respect one another? Our motto is –

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

The TPI Federation wishes to also address the slanderous emails that have circulated over the past two years making baseless, unsubstantiated claims and accusations on a number of issues.

The TPI Federation President, Ms Pat McCabe OAM, has never made any financial claims on the Members funds for any private travel or any private holiday. This baseless accusation was a means of trying to coerce the President into a situation that, they hoped, would cause her to resign. The validity of this statement has been verified by the TPI Federation accountant, in writing, to the Board. The TPI Federation President also did not represent the TPI Federation at any time during any private holiday trips.

The TPI Federation Board has confirmed, in writing, that the eligibility of the Board Secretary to nominate, and hold, that position is legal and in accordance with the Constitution and the Corporation's Act 2001. The Capitation Fees that have been received from TPI NSW Association are also correct and has been verified by the TPI Federation's Accountant.

Many, many other false accusations and assumptions have been dispersed mainly by email to many TPI/SRs, Veterans and their families in the hope of discrediting the TPI Federation President, Directors and the organisation itself.

The TPI Federation is a proud almost-100-year-old organisation that has seen many such disgruntled Veterans come and go, and the TPI Federation, and its Directors, has maintained the dignity and respect of the organisation. The TPI Federation continues to relentlessly advocate for its many, and varied, Members, and lobbies Government and a number of Government Department's bureaucracies, in many areas, for issues that are important to all Veterans – but particularly TPI/SRs.

The TPI Federation consistently invites all State/Territory TPI Associations to print the President's quarterly newsletter in their magazines. The TPI Federation has maintained an open and transparent Board at all times since the current President has taken office five and half years ago. The Board does, however, and without apology, maintain the right for confidentiality of Board discussions in order to maintain and encourage robust discussions on numerous subjects of interest, and concern, to Veterans. When Board decisions are made, they are conveyed to the various State/Territory TPI Association by their TPI Federation Directors. This process will continue into the future.

The TPI Federation Directors will continue to 'stay the course' and will vigorously and relentlessly advocate on behalf of all TPIs, as it has in the past, whether they are TPI Association contributors or not.

The TPI Federation welcomes all comments and discussion points on our Facebook page and in emails that are factual and opinion-or-query orientated. All discussion points in either emails or on Facebook will be deleted and ignored when swearing or derogatory personal comments are addressed to anyone, including the Board or the organisation, occur. The TPI Federation does not apologise for this policy.

The TPI Federation's Executive and Board, Solicitor, Returning Officer and Accountant have all confirmed that the many mistruths and deceptions that have accrued over the last two years are approximately 95% **incorrect**. The many, many accusations have been a matter of interpretation of the written word and individual unproven accusations.

All financial Member TPI Associations of the TPI Federation and their Members are welcomed to nominate for a position on the Board, especially during Executive elections. This nomination can be arranged by your local State/Territory TPI Association.

					
Ms Pat McCabe OAM President TPI Federation 0417 291 546 <a href="mailto:federation@tpifed.org.au">federation@tpifed.org.au</a>	John Reeves Vice President & Director Tas TPI Association	Ray Williams OAM Director Tas TPI Association	Shayne Eades Secretary TPI Federation	Mick Wood Secretary & Director ACT TPI Association	Ian Swan Director SA TPI Association
 Patrick Bratt OAM				(Signed by ) (Ken Savage)	
President & Director NSW TPI Association	Vice President & Director NSW TPI Association	President & Director WA TPI Association	Director WA TPI Association	Director Qld TPI Association	Director Qld TPI Association