



The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen
& Women Ltd (Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service, United in our Cause”



Media Release

Labor Party Election Promise to Increase TPI Compensation Payment

For nearly a decade, the TPI Federation has made a strong and “compelling case” (as acknowledged by the Prime Minister in 2019), to restore the eroded compensation payment for approximately 27,000 Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans. This erosion from less than 62% of the gross national minimum wage that Veterans currently receive for their economic loss compensation, must be restored to a benchmark of 100% of the gross national minimum wage, defensibly because the minimum wage is Australia’s lowest arbitrated wage standard.

The ongoing plight of TPI Veterans, and the identified and acknowledged deficiency in the TPI Compensation payment, was highlighted in a Senate Inquiry that was initiated by the Labor Party which, without equivocation, made a single unanimous recommendation that the Government immediately increase the total TPI Compensation payment.

In response to this Inquiry, the TPI Federation acknowledges that the Australian Labor Party has, in part, recognised the Senate Inquiry’s recommendation, and in doing so, now makes an important and explicit election commitment to partially restore the total TPI compensation.

The TPI Federation acknowledges the Labor Party’s election promise of the requirement for an initial 10% of the much-needed restoration of the Veteran’s compensation payment. The TPI Federation wishes to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr Shayne Neumann MP, the FAD&T Senate Committee References Chair, the late Senator Kimberley Kitching, and the Committee as a whole, noting particularly the long and unwavering support of not least Senators Jacqui Lambie and Eric Abetz and the enduring support of Mr. Andrew Willkie MP.

The Federation now seeks firm commitments from all political parties which properly recognises the current compensation deficiency and will provide an enduring solution that restores the compensation of 27,000 of Australia’s totally and permanently incapacitated Veterans, in line with the Parliament’s original intent where appropriate financial recompense is provided to Veterans and their families for their ongoing sacrifice.

The TPI Federation maintains its strong adherence to its logical and defensible claim that a TPI Veteran’s ‘Economic Loss’ compensation should be benchmarked to not less than 100% of the tax-adjusted national minimum wage. It is hoped that other political parties will also endorse this ideal.

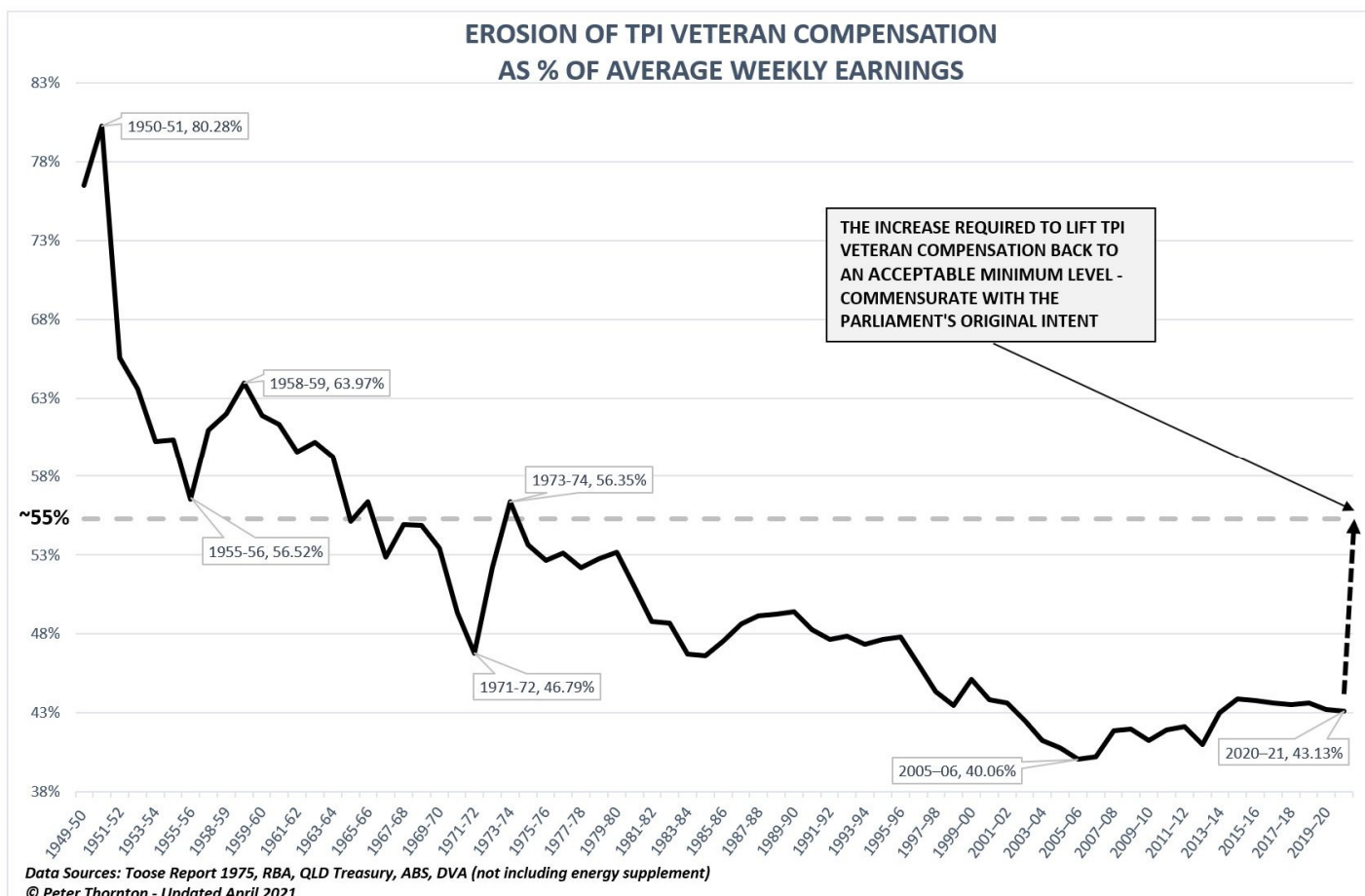
The RSL Australia media release of 22nd April 2022, where the National President, Greg Mellick AO RFD FANZCN SC, stated, “Therefore, funding for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs must be provided to meet this rising demand and the services required by veterans and their families should not be dependent on annual budget allocations.

“Such a process would allow DVA to expand capacities in a timely manner rather than current stop-gap measures that have contributed to the unacceptable backlog in the processing of veteran claims”.

This statement is fully supported by the TPI Federation. Veterans’ compensation should never be subject to an election or budgetary negotiating system and all Veterans medical and compensation needs should be a non-discretionary and uncapped budget item.

When a government calls on their young men and women to train and support our nation in peace and turmoil there must be a community standard compensation when they are injured, wounded or killed whilst engaged in training, peacekeeping, war and/or war-like commitments on behalf of the Government.

Veterans have the support of their nation, but all politicians need to prioritise the needs of Veterans to the expected community standard and the Veteran's needs.



24th April 2022