



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President’s Report

February 2023

Happy New Year to all TPIs and their families. 2023 brings some changes for TPIs and their families.

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payments Increase

Following the long running TPI Federation campaign for the rightful adjustment to the TPI Economic Loss Compensation Payment, the small but necessary adjustment of \$1,000 per annum (or \$38.46 per fortnight) to the annual rate of the ‘Totally and Permanently Incapacitated’ (TPI) Payment commences from 1 January 2023.

This increase is a mere 10% of what is required to bring the Economic Loss Compensation to the level of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. The TPI Federation will continue to seek the more justified economic loss compensation payment.

The increase will appear in your bank accounts from 12 January (partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate, as the 12 January 2023 payday is for the period 28 December 2022 to 10 January 2023). The first full payment at the new rate will be paid 25 January 2023. The increase will provide additional financial support to TPI, ‘Totally and Temporarily Incapacitated’ (TTI) and Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) Veterans and their families who are already in receipt of the payment, and for Veterans who become eligible in the future.

Vale Senator Major General Jim Molan AO, DSC (11 Apr 1950 – 16 Jan 2023)

It was with great sadness that the news of Senator Jim Molan was announced. Jim was a great friend of the TPI family and, in particular, the TPI Federation. Jim’s support of our political endeavours was greatly appreciated by the Executive and Directors. His greatest legacy will be the many and varied achievements during his lifetime and the friendships he enabled to so many. The TPI Federation extends the condolences of the entire TPI family to Mrs Molan, her children and grandchildren and Jim’s extended family.

Rest In Peace Jim – Your Job is Done.

DVA Secretary

The new DVA Secretary was announced by the Prime Minister on the 15th December 2022 to be Ms Alison Frame. Ms Frame will commence duties as DVA Secretary on 23rd January 2023 with a five-year appointment. Ms Frame is not ex-military but she has a wealth of experience following 21 years in the Australian Public Service. The TPI Federation congratulates Ms Frame on her appointment and also congratulates Ms Cosson AM CSC on completing her tenure as Secretary and wishes her well with her endeavours into the future.

Ms Frame comes from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where she has been in the role of Deputy Secretary, Social Policy. She has been a senior public servant for both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments in a range of complex service delivery and policy roles. Ms Frame brings significant experience working with stakeholders and leading staff to deliver positive outcomes for the community.

Ms Frame’s previous positions included –

Group Deputy Secretary, Property and Housing at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Apr 2019 – Sep 2020,

Deputy Secretary Policy and Strategy at NSW Department of Planning and Environment – May 2014 – May 2019,

Deputy Secretary of NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet – Mar 2014 – Jun 2014,

Executive Director of NSW Department of Family and Community Services – Apr 2012 – Feb 2014,

First Assistant Secretary – Processing – Centrelink – 2010 - 2011

Area Manager of Centrelink – 2008 – 2010; and

Ministerial Advisor in the Australian Parliament – 2003 – 2004; and

Ms Frame is currently in the Prime Minister & Cabinet Department as Deputy Secretary for Social Policy – Sep 2020 – present.

Pharmaceutical 2023 Changes

From 1 January 2023, the maximum cost of general prescriptions under the PBS will fall for the first time in the 75-year history of the PBS.

PBS Co-Payment Reduction

From 1 January 2023, the PBS co-payment for general patients (non-concession card holders) will reduce from \$42.50 to \$30.00 which will be indexed on the first day of every from 1 January 2024.

PBS and RPBS Co-Payment Increase

Also from 1 January 2023, the concessional co-payment will increase from \$6.80 to \$7.30 per script.

PBS and RPBS Safety Net Increase

The Safety Net for 2023 will remain at 36 scripts but will increase from \$244.80 to \$262.80.

Pharmaceutical Allowance Increase

For the first time since 1 Jan 2012 the Pharmaceutical Allowance will be increased for 2023 from \$6.20 to \$6.60 per fortnight.

The TPI Federation will continue to advocate for the removal of the pharmaceutical allowance and the pharmaceutical co-payment for all TPIs who should be receiving their medications in full, for all conditions, as all other Australian compensation recipients receive.

50th anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War

The DVA Minister announced on the 11th January 2023, that we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the then Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck proclaiming an end to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

This milestone marks the beginning of recognising in 2023, the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's commitment to the war and to acknowledge Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, over 3,000 wounded and 523 gave their lives in the longest conflict Australians were involved in during the 20th Century. Throughout the commemorative year, DVA will raise awareness to specifically recognise and honour the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families, with:

- documentary series on Australians in Vietnam to be screened on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and
- Saluting Their Service grants to assist with honouring the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel and preserve our wartime heritage, including projects and activities marking the 50th anniversary and the service of Vietnam veterans.

These activities will lead into a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, recognising the service of all Australians in the Vietnam War and honouring the sacrifices that they and their families made. Further information can be found at <http://bit.ly/3HDCWmQ>. The service will be held at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Government support for people directly affected by flood

Over the last 12 months Australians have endured a series of devastating flooding events. Many lives and business have been impacted and suffered great damage; the clean-up and recovery process will take time. If you or a loved one has been directly affected by a recent flood you may be eligible for financial assistance through Services Australia.

Any veterans or family members of veterans who are struggling with their mental health as a result of the floods, please remember free counselling support is always available, 24/7 through Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling on 1800 011 046.

Hearing Aids

The TPI Federation will continue to advocate for the full compensation entitlements that all other Australians are entitled to receive the full hearing requirements for their Defence caused hearing conditions. For too long the Government has treated Veterans the same as Australians who are not compensation recipients. True medical compensation must be acknowledged and accepted by the Government.

Royal Commission Update

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is continuing, and will recommence in Perth on 15th May 2023. The interim report was provided by the Commissioners on the 11th August 2022. The final report is

due to be tabled on 17th June 2024.

TPI Federation Congress

The TPI Federation Congress will be held in from 22-24 March 2023 in Canberra.

Conclusion

The TPI Federation will continue to assist all TPIs and should you have any questions, please call or forward them to the email address below.



Ms Pat McCabe OAM

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Ph: 0417 291 546

Feb 2023

Important Dates

Royal Commission started –	8 July 2021
Rent Assistance Eligibility for TPIs begins –	1 January 2022
Royal Commission Interim Report – DONE	11 August 2022
Royal Commission Hearings – Wagga –	28 November 2022
Royal Commission Private Session Requests –	28 April 2023
Royal Commission Submissions close –	13 October 2023
Royal Commission Final Report –	17 June 2024

For further information call 1800 331 800