



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President’s Report

April 2023

The TPI Federation thanks DVA Minister, Matt Keogh MP, Andrew Wilkie MP, DVA Secretary, Ms Alison Frame and her staff for attending the recent TPI Federation Congress in Canberra in the week ending 17th March 2023. Again Mr Wilkie has given great support to the TPI Federation and will continue to do so. Unfortunately, other MPs and Senators were unable to attend. The individual State/Territory Directors will provide a synopsis of the events of the Congress.

DVA Secretary, Ms Alison Frame

The TPI Federation met with the new Secretary on 16th February 2023 and again at the March National Congress. Ms Frame was very generous with her time and even though she was only in the positions since 23rd January 2023 she was extremely knowledgeable on most of the DVA issues. The Secretary was asked to ‘take ownership’ of the Veteran Hearing Aid issue that has been prosecuted unsuccessfully for the past 9 years. The Secretary confirmed that she would be assessing all the information available and will advise when the full situation was known by her.

The TPI Federation again is able to ask all TPI/SRs that if you have any ongoing hearing aid issues if you can advise on the contact details at the end of this report so that we can hopefully update the current lack of benefits in this area.

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payments Increase

The last report noted that 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 was enhanced by the usual indexation increase of \$59.04 per fortnight from 20 March 2023.

The TPI Federation will continue to advocate for a proper increase to the TPI Economic Loss Compensation payment. When the campaign began the Economic Loss Compensation was 65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. When the Labor Party was elected in May 2022 it was 61.9%. This was followed by an increase to the minimum wage in July 2022 as well as the election promise in January 2023. This brought the figure back to 65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage. The TPI Economic Loss Compensation is now again 65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage as it was in 2013. Again, the Government is supporting an increase to the minimum wage at the next Fair Work Commission Annual Wage Review hearing of 7% from 1 July 2023. This would then only widen the gap yet again for the TPI Economic Loss Compensation.

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

The – www.dva.gov.au/vietnam50 – will direct you to the National Mailing and Marketing website. National Mailing and Marketing have been engaged by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) to coordinate the production and distribution of the commemorative medallions and certificates for the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. You will note that this website displays the DVA logo and the Vietnam50 logo, along with the National Mailing and Marketing logo.

In order to apply for a medallion and certificate, veterans and their families will need to follow the prompts on this website to set up a New User account.

Anyone encountering difficulties with this process is encouraged to call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) between 9am and 5pm AEST, Monday to Friday, and when prompted say the word ‘medallions’. A member of the commemorations team will then assist them with the application process.

Unfortunately we do not have any printed forms. Should any applicants not have internet access they are able to call 1800 VETERAN between 9am and 5pm AEST, Monday to Friday, and when prompted say the word 'medallions'. We have plenty of staff on hand who can lodge the form on behalf of the applicant

Royal Commission Update

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide will be holding hearings in Perth from 16th 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.

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

Email: federation@tpifed.org.au

Ph: 0417 291 546

Apr 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