



TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

June 2024

Hearing Aids Update

Congratulations and appreciation is extended to the DVA Secretary, Ms Alison Frame, for standing by her commitment to ensure that Veterans hearing aids needs would be provided for in the Federal Budget. It is most pleasing that this commitment came to fruition in the 2024-25 Federal Budget with funding being provided for the provision of all the Veterans and War Widows hearing needs. Where there is a clinical need for greater than the basic hearing aid, DVA will now be able to provide this.

There is a new Hearing Aid Prior Approval Form required for the Audiologist to complete and, if you can, download the form and give it to your Audiologist. You may need to convince them that things have changed and to try again with DVA to gain an approval. The form – d9398 – Hearing Aid Prior Approval Form – can be googled and printed or requested from any State/Territory TPI Association.

The TPI Federation will now attempt to gain access to the Tinnitus program for all Veterans. The Department of Health Hearing Services Program website states that ‘tinnitus assessment and treatment’ is not included in the Hearing Services Program yet the DVA website states ‘we may provide you with a range of tinnitus treatments’ for Gold Card holders. This anomaly has caused confusion for Veterans as well as Audiologist Providers. Hopefully this, too, will be addressed.

DVA Prescriptions

Another budget measure that was announced in the 2024-25 Federal Budget was the freezing of the indexation of the pharmaceutical co-payment. This provision enables the co-payment to remain at \$7.70 per script for concession scripts for five years. For those who pay the full general pharmaceutical co-payment the indexation will be frozen for 12 months for the co-payment of \$31.60. This means the maximum amount individuals pay for their PBS medicines won't go up with indexation.

Decline of the TPI Compensation

Unfortunately, the Minister announced that the TPI Compensation inadequacy 11-year campaign has again failed to make an impression on him. With the number of increases to the Minimum Wage of recent times, the decline is now closer to being 60% of the tax-adjusted Minimum Wage. The gap just continues to widen and the urgent need for more income support becomes apparent. TPI Veterans and their families cannot continue to be ignored.

The TPI President's report of January 2024 had a comprehensive indication of the current situation with our TPI Economic Loss Compensation campaign.

The TPI Federation followed up with an email on the 1st February 2024 to the Finance Minister, Senator Katy Gallagher, outlining the frustration felt by all TPIs at the lack of a response to our campaign. Senator Gallagher's response only indicated that the email had been forwarded to the DVA Minister.

The DVA Minister responded to this in a letter dated 2nd May 2024 explaining the machinations of the TPI Compensation payment along with a reminder of the \$19.38 per week increase that was received in January 2023 as a result of this Government's election promise. The Minister acknowledged that this was a ‘modest increase’ and was ‘lower than expected’ but ‘the Government is ensuring that additional financial support is provided to veterans and their families’. The Minister also ‘acknowledged the rising cost of living pressures felt by all veterans’ but that the ‘TPI payment, are indexed twice yearly’.

A follow-up email was presented to the Minister, the Assistant DVA Minister, Matt Thistlewaite MP, Senator K Gallagher, Shadow Minister, Barnaby Joyce MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence, Phil Thompson MP asking that all Government Members address this long-standing inadequacy. It is hoped that they will attend to this issue.

TPI Federation Congress

This year the TPI Federation's bi-annual congress meetings will take place in Canberra. The next Congress will take place on 14-16 August. If you wish to attend these meetings as an observer, please speak with your State/Territory TPI Association for the appropriate forms to be completed.

Royal Commission Update

The final public Royal Commission hearing has been completed. This will be the last public hearing block of the inquiry before the release of the final report in September 2024. Hopefully, the Government will heed any recommendations that may result from the Royal Commission.



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February 2024

Important Dates

Royal Commission started	– 8 July 2021
Royal Commission Interim Report - Completed	– 11 August 2022
Royal Commission Hearings – Sydney	– 13 March 2024
Royal Commission Private Session – Closed	– 28 April 2023
Royal Commission Submissions – Closed	– 13 October 2023
Royal Commission Final Report	– 9 September 2024

For further information call 1800 331 800