



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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THE PM ABANDONS HIS PROMISE TO ADF MEMBERS

The Government's refusal to provide for ADF families in retirement by adequately indexing their superannuation pensions, renders the PM's grandiose promises to support ADF Members as he farewells them on deployment to war zones hollow and meaningless.

The Matthews Report - conveniently released today just as Parliament goes into recess - blandly recommends that military superannuation schemes continue to be indexed by the CPI. Those who served their country in the expectation that their government would look after them have been duded yet again. The Government has refused to provide ADF superannuants with adequate protection against cost of living increases **despite**:

- Six parliamentary inquiries recommending military superannuation pensions be better indexed.
- Mr Rudd criticising the Coalition for its failure to implement the findings of these inquiries during the last election campaign along with many Labor candidates who offered their strong support – the silence now is deafening.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics openly stating that the CPI simply does not reflect the cost of living.

Unlike parliamentarians and aged pensioners (whose pensions are indexed far more fairly), the Government seems happy to ask ADF families to put their loved ones in harms way when in uniform, then ignore them when their duty is done.

This government and its predecessor just kept having reviews until they got the answer they wanted - unlike all other reviews since 2001.

So much for the much vaunted Prime Minister's statement of support on 8 Sept 2008;

“...the first responsibility of government is the security of the nation. And it follows therefore that government has a particular responsibility towards those who have worn the nation's uniform. Because there is in my view no higher calling than to wear the uniform of Australia.”

The DFWA will analyze the Mathews Report in more detail and will have more to say later.

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