



**State Minister's Message
Issue 50 (20 January, 2010)**

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

Australian Government Community Cabinet

The Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM and the Chairman of the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, Brigadier Laurie Lewis (Rtd) AM will today meet with the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon. Lindsay Tanner M.P. to discuss the recent *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes* by Mr Trevor Matthews.

The Veterans' Advisory Council (V.A.C.) has considered this matter in recent meetings. The V.A.C. noted that in August, 2009 the Commonwealth Government endorsed all four recommendations of the Matthews Review.

The V.A.C. was disappointed that 63,000 military superannuation pensioners will remain disadvantaged as their D.F.R.D.B. pension remains indexed to the Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.), whereas the Age and other welfare pensions are indexed at a higher rate (the greater of C.P.I. or the new Pensioner & Beneficiary Living Cost Index (P.B.L.C.I.) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (M.T.A.W.E.)).

The V.A.C. noted that, during the period 1989 to 2008, military superannuation pensions rose by 68% and Age pensions rose by 110%. The V.A.C. felt strongly that while the purpose of pension indexation is to maintain the pension's purchasing power, in the case of military superannuation, this is not occurring.

Bill and Laurie are grateful that Minister Tanner has afforded them the opportunity to express their concerns about this matter to him directly.

National Veterans' Affairs Officers' Meeting

A National Veterans' Affairs Officers' Meeting will be held in South Australia on Wednesday, 10 March, 2010.

In recent years, every State and Territory has established some form of representation for veterans. Some have created a Veterans' Affairs portfolio and appointed a Minister. Others have delegated the function to an area of the public service.

This meeting follows a smaller but highly productive meeting convened Sydney early last year.

There has been significant progress since that time and the profile of Veterans' Affairs at a State level has increased enormously. All jurisdictions have different ways of dealing with this important segment of the community and much could be learned from our combined experience.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Veterans SA on 8207 1723.