



Mr Stuart Robert MP

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel | Federal Member for Fadden

Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs | Liberal Senator for Victoria

Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader of the Opposition on the Centenary of ANZAC

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor, Greens and Senator Xenophon Scuttle Fairer Indexation of Veterans' Superannuation Pensions

Military superannuants have been denied fair, just and equitable indexation of their pensions following the disgraceful actions of the Labor Government, The Greens and Independent Senator Xenophon in voting against the Coalition's *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010*.

Coalition spokesman on military superannuation, Stuart Robert MP, said the veteran community had every reason to feel let down by today's decision, particularly given the previous statements made by those claiming to support Australia's veterans.

'The Labor Government, The Greens, and Senator Xenophon have all previously expressed their support for the fairer indexation of military superannuation pensions but it is their actions today that speak louder than their words,' Mr Robert said.

Mr Robert also said that the Coalition was extremely disappointed that the Senate inquiry into the Coalition's Bill was politically hijacked by the Labor Government in order to whitewash its broken election promise to veterans.

'Of the eight inquiries into this matter, all but two recommend changing the current indexation system for military superannuants. The two inquiries that do not recommend changes were both initiated and supported by the Labor Government, despite Labor's 2007 election promise to pursue a fairer indexation policy' Mr Robert said.

'The Labor Government, in particular Finance Minister Wong, deliberately misrepresented costings and ran a scare campaign against the Coalition's Bill rather than focussing on the welfare of veterans or developing their own policy.'

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, said the Labor Government, The Greens and Senator Xenophon had to explain why they have deserted 57,000 DFRDB and DFRB members.

'The Labor Government, The Greens and Senator Xenophon have failed to appreciate the *unique nature of military service*. They have failed to act in the best interests of veterans who will be left to battle rising living costs with a military pension that fails to keep pace with the cost of living,' Senator Ronaldson said.

'Instead of supporting our veterans with their cost of living pressures, Labor today announced a \$12 million publicly-funded advertising campaign on their toxic Carbon Tax. Clearly their priorities are all wrong.'

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