



## **TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA**

*“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”*



# **Federation President's Report**

## **January 2018**

Happy New Year

The TPI Federation congratulates Dan Tehan MP on his promotion to the Department of Social Services ministry and thank him for his assistance on just short of 2 years of service to the Veteran community. The Federation also welcomes our new Minister, Michael McCormack MP and look forward to meeting him at our next Congress in March.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 the MyAgedCare Minister, Ken Wyatt MP commented on recommendations included in Kate Carnell's National Review of Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes. Minister Wyatt made it clear that the current system for accreditation had 'let us down' and flagged tough new regulations to prevent abuse and neglect. He stated that there would be 'relentless' unannounced spot checks of services spanning up to 2 days.

I thank Mr Wyatt MP who, with the assistance of the DVA Minister, Dan Tehan MP, enabled me to meet with him in early October 2017. It was a very fruitful meeting and the Minister was astounded at the number of issues that Veterans and War Widows faced in the MyAgedCare arena. I await his response to the issues I raised with him. Should any Veteran or War Widow have any concerns with the MyAgedCare system please contact me.

I am still receiving reports of Veterans being charged additional costs for their hearing aids. A Veteran with a Gold Card or a White Card (for hearing accepted disability) have all their hearing aid costs covered by DVA. Where additional features are required, the Veteran does not pay for this. The Audiologist needs to request approval for additional clinical needs for the hearing aids. Please contact me if you have any further issues with this.

DVA have on-line facilities for DVA clients to access services and to nominate representatives (such as a spouse/partner or child) to represent them in obtaining DVA services. The on-line link is at <http://bit.ly/2AajEiV> and should be given to as many Veterans and War Widows as possible. It is highly recommended that all Veterans and War Widows utilise the MyAccount facility for all their medical transportation needs.

The New Year brings along our seventh DVA Minister in the last 10 years. It is hoped that Minister McCormack will give our hard fought campaign for a fair and equitable 'economic loss compensation' a fair hearing, and that he will work hard to enable our nation's most disabled Veterans to achieve at least the tax-adjusted minimum wage as compensation for their inability to earn a full and wholesome income. To date, the Federation has responded to all the obstacles that both the previous Minister and the Department has placed in our way and now there are no logical arguments against our proposal. The only obstacle appears to be how the Government will be able to finance the small \$240m p.a. that this will cost them. The Government can find funds when they have a mind to but, apparently, the TPI Veteran currently has a much lower priority.

I hope to be meeting with Minister McCormack when he returns from his Christmas break to discuss this and other topics including the anomaly of the different Funeral Benefits for different Veterans. The older Veteran covered under the VEA has a legislated benefit of \$2,000 for funeral benefits, whereas the MRCA Veteran has a legislated figure that is CPI indexed and is currently \$11,645. The TPI Federation has discussed this topic many times over the years and, again, no one is listening. I hope that this can change with our new Minister.

Ms Pat McCabe OAM  
Email: [federation@tpifed.org.au](mailto:federation@tpifed.org.au)  
Ph: 0417 291 546

3 Jan 2018