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## **RSL Deplores decisions about defence pay & indexation of veterans' entitlements**

At its meeting in Sydney today the National Board of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) passed two motions deploring recent decisions about rates of pay for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the indexation of some veterans' entitlements by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2017. Both motions called on the Federal Government to amend these decisions.

The RSL also calls upon Government to cease the apparent practice of requiring major ADF pay cases put before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) to be earlier agreed by the Public Service Commission on behalf of the Government and the Chief of the Defence Force on behalf of the ADF. This has resulted in the unfortunate perception that the hitherto highly regarded DFRT was no longer a neutral umpire with its status now more akin to that of a mere "rubber stamp".

Speaking on behalf of the National Board, RSL National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan said, "members of the RSL expect the Government to live up to their pre-election promises. While they are pleased at increased funding for Defence, they are dismayed that the pay increases put before the DFRT did not even cover the increased cost of living of ADF personnel. Our service men and women are the heart and soul of our Defence Force and deserve to be treated with respect and fairness."

Concerning the change to indexation arrangements for some veterans' entitlements in 2017, Rear Admiral Doolan said "this decision is at complete odds with the earlier welcome decision of Government to move away from the CPI for the indexation of superannuation entitlements for some DFRB and DFRDB recipients. In putting forward that welcome legislation in 2014 the Government argued that indexation by CPI was unfair. How can they now contend that indexation by CPI for some veterans' entitlements from 2017 is fair?"

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