



RSL Media Release

4 February 2015

RSL Urges Changes to Defence Force Pay Determination Procedures

In a submission to an inquiry by the Defence Sub Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Committee Foreign Affairs Defence & Trade into the Defence Annual Report 2013/2014, the RSL has called into question the pay determination procedures for members of the Australian Defence Force.

In its wide ranging submission the RSL also argues for the retention in public ownership of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) citing the special needs of defence families and the cost effectiveness over decades of DHA in meeting those needs.

Citing the contents of the Defence Annual Report, RSL National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan said, "the National Board and members of the RSL contend it is inappropriate that increases in ADF salary and salary related allowances depend upon improvements in organisational efficiency and productivity."

"The men and women of the ADF engaging an enemy are oblivious to civilian workplace benchmarks. They fight for our nation, our freedoms, their families, their mates and their lives. They do not fight for pay rises linked to productivity increases or improvements in organisational efficiency."

In its submission the RSL also urges abandonment of the practice of Governments of all political persuasions requiring major ADF pay cases put before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal to have been previously agreed between the ADF leadership and the Department representing the Government of the day.

Rear Admiral Doolan said that this practice had led to the unfortunate perception that the Tribunal was only nominally independent.

The complete RSL submission is available on the RSL national web site at www.rsl.org.au.

For more information contact:

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd) on
0410 627 873