



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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POLITICIANS GRANTED A MASSIVE PAY RISE WHILE VETERANS, TPI PENSIONERS AND WAR WIDOWS STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia has come out strongly against what it regards as fiscal hypocrisy and a further slap in the face for veterans and war widows by the federal government in the light of the recent 6.9% pay rise granted to politicians.

National VVAA President Ron Coxon said it was hypocritical of politicians to accept such huge pay increases while Veterans and TPI pensioners watch the real value of their pensions eroded by the Government's niggardly indexation and War Widows struggle to make ends meet.

"On top of the 4.1% rise in 2005, the politicians have been handed a further 6.9% pay rise while TPI's will be lucky to get a 3% rise this year and War Widows' last two pension increases in Sep 05 and Mar 06 totalled 4.6%", Mr. Coxon said .

"The PM has just received a pay rise of in excess of \$20,000 PA, a rise of \$6000 more than a War Widow's entire annual pension of around \$14000" he said.

Mr. Coxon pointed out that while Veterans, TPI pensioners and War Widows are expected to live on pensions which are constantly eroding in real terms, the politicians grab a pay rise twice the current inflation rate. "Any chance they'll knock it back? Not likely! The last time politicians rejected a pay rise was in 1975!" he said.

"Service personnel who leave the service after serving their nation with distinction for 20 years receive an annual taxed pension of around \$20,000 per annum, the PM got that much in one hit!"

“With massive budget surpluses, I would have thought that those who have served their nation with distinction and are now in great need and War Widows would have been looked after better” Mr. Coxon said. “Instead, we see some of the surplus being used to hand out massive pay rises for politicians, and that’s hypocritical” he said.

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