

SENATOR GARY HUMPHRIES
Liberal Senator for the Australian Capital Territory
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Materiel

*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

LUNDY SINKS DEFENCE RETIREMENT BILL

Commonwealth superannuants in Canberra were dealt a blow today by Senator Lundy's rank hypocrisy on Commonwealth pension indexation when she voted against a bill to give fair indexation to DFRDB recipients.

The *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010* would have indexed DFRDB pensions against either the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). This is in line with the Coalition's commitment at last year's Federal election.

Senator Lundy, who supposedly supports fair indexation (see <http://www.katelundy.com.au/2009/08/21/disappointing-announcement-on-the-matthews-report/>), voted against the bill today. Given that the bill was lost by one vote, Senator Lundy's decision has cost the Defence retirees of Canberra and Australia dearly.

"I am stunned at Senator Lundy's hypocrisy," Senator Humphries said today.

"It is just not good enough to campaign on an issue at an election, and then vote against that position in Parliament.

"The Coalition made a very strong commitment to the veterans' community at the last election and we voted to see that through," Senator Humphries said today.

"We should not forget that the Labor Government broke its 2007 election commitment to 'fix' the issue of military superannuation indexation. Since then it has spent more time and energy criticising the Coalition's plan than coming up with one of its own. It continues to have no plan to reform military superannuation.

"There are thousands of DFRDB superannuants in the ACT. Voting for this bill was a very important first step towards eventual fair indexation for all Commonwealth superannuants.

"Commonwealth superannuants now know where they truly stand with Labor," Senator Humphries concluded.

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Media contact is Paul Boulus on 0423 345 734