

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE MAY 2020

I trust this finds you coping as well as can be expected while we transit from the State being 'Confined to Barracks' to some semblance of normality. It is reassuring to know our respective governments can put aside their differences for the nation's wellbeing. The Federal Government has been very generous in its social welfare payments, but there will be a heavy economic price to pay. In that light, our State Association was very supportive of the TPI Federation hibernating the campaign for an increase in the TPI pension. In our view, now is not the time for asking for more, instead Federation should be concentrating its efforts on keeping what we have. It should be remembered recent reviews (KPMG) indicated that TPIs do very well in comparison to other compensation recipients, especially in taxation entitlements, and rocking the boat could well prove counterproductive.

TPI Federation Issues

Federation is in an ongoing dispute with Victoria over capitation fees, to the extent Victoria has threatened to leave the Federation. Our Federation Queensland Directors spent many hours mediating in this dispute, in an attempt to resolve, what could be a serious blow to the Federation which relies on the 'united voice' of all states. Federation has done some great work for TPIs and these distractions are not in anyone's best interests – so hopefully it will soon be resolved. I have also made it clear to Federation, if this dispute escalates, Queensland is not in favour of member's funds being spent on legal fees.

State Office Administration

Our Secretary, Jeff Graham, is putting in a lot of time learning the ropes and is a welcome addition to the office along with our efficient, and always pleasant Office Manager, Beryl. It would be now be beneficial, to augment our SMC with an 'Assistant Secretary'. Ideally the position would suit a member (male or female) who resides in the Brisbane catchment area with the time and skills to assist with the State Office administration and state secretarial duties. There is a lot to learn in the running a modern ESO and succession planning is critical to ensure all the hard work carried out by previous committees is not lost. In that regard, it would be ideal to have a post-Vietnam era volunteer. If interested, please contact me to discuss the role

Email: president@qldtpi.org.au Don't worry, you won't be thrown in the deep end with full support always available.

State Concessions Officer

Our State Concessions Officer is Ron Marsh. Ron is an Administrator on Facebook for Veteran Discount Sites and is an authority on concessions and DVA entitlements. Ron is working on updating our Concessions Booklet and the SMC is grateful for his assistance. If you have any inquiries on concessions, or DVA entitlements in general, please contact Ron: via E mail: concessionsofficer@qldtpi.org.au The only caveat is you must be a financial member of the Association.

State Office Welfare

The pillar of our Association's existence is the welfare of our members and dependents. To that end, State Office has two very active Welfare Officers previous State President Ken Savage and recently appointed Peter Broadbridge. Ken and Peter regularly contact members to have a chat and pass feedback to SMC on welfare issues. If you have any welfare concerns

please contact welfare@qldtqi.org.au Also, our Honorary Solicitor John Cockburn is readily available to offer advice on legal matters. John's Email is john@cockburnlegal.com

Social Centres

New members are encouraged to join one of our 10 Social Centres located throughout the State and contact details are available on our website. Centres offer camaraderie, social activities and welfare support. Our rules allows DVA Gold and White Card Holders to become Associate Members and some Centres utilize the skills of their Associates for the benefit of their Centre. The State Office is also exploring the option of the establishment of new social centres. Looking at our membership base, there may be enough members in the (Gympie/South Burnett) (Hervey Bay) (Mackay) (Caboolture) areas to form or reactivate a centre should there be enough interest? If you reside in those general areas and think you may be interested in becoming part of a new or reactivated centre could you please Email State Secretary Jeff Graham at secretary@qldtqi.org.au and advise which location would be of interest. To form a centre at least 10 members are required.

AVCAT Scholarships

Our initial two bursary students are completing their tertiary studies and wrote to express their very sincere appreciation to our Association for the financial assistance. We look forward to continuing this support for dependents of TPI veterans through AVCAT.

Private Hospital Veteran Liaison Officers (VLOs)

An updated list of Queensland VLOs is now on our website. For those unfamiliar with the role, a VLO is required to be nominated by DVA contracted Private Hospitals as part of the contractual arrangements. The VLO is there to assist Veteran patients and act as conduit to the hospital and DVA on the veteran's behalf. It is recommended you research who the VLO is, before admittance to hospital and utilize their services if hospital issues occur. Please also let State Office know if problems are ever encountered in contacting a VLO during a hospital confinement.

War Widows Queensland

Our Association is now working closely with War Widows. This informal collaboration is in its early stages but has already proved beneficial in information and resource sharing. Our TPI Association members can join as War Widows as Associate Members and it is beneficial for spouses to be aware that War Widows is there to assist should they lose their spouse. For information, War Widows have holiday units at Centrepoint Apartments Caloundra that can be utilised by our members. Here is the link:

<http://www.warwidowsqld.org.au/accommodation/holiday-units/>

In closing, I sincerely hope our next journal sees us out of the pandemic woods and back to enjoying our normal way of life. Until then, keep well.

Regards

Chris Richards
State President

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