

# Restoration of Reversionary Pensions



Australian Government  
Defence Force Retirement &  
Death Benefits Scheme

DF17—November 2007

As a result of superannuation reforms announced in the 2007 Federal Budget amendments have been made to the *Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948* and the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973* to allow restoration of certain widow and widower pensions previously cancelled under those Acts.

## *Who should read this?*

A spouse of a DFRB or DFRDB deceased pensioner, whose pension was cancelled, prior to 1977, upon their re-marriage.

A spouse whose pension, previously cancelled, was only later partially restored due either to their being in necessitous circumstances or on the grounds that it was otherwise warranted.

## *How can I have my cancelled, or partially restored, pension fully restored?*

You will need to complete a 'DRRP' form and supply ComSuper with as much information you have regarding your original pension such as:

- a copy of letter/s from the DFRB Board, the DFRDB Authority, or the Australian Government Retirement Benefits Office (now known as ComSuper), Department of Social Security (DSS) – now known as Centrelink, or the Department of Defence

- a copy of bank book or statement confirming the date the pension was ceased
- a copy of your Marriage Certificate
- a copy of the member's Death Certificate.

All copies of relevant documentation must be certified as true and correct copies of the original.

## *Can someone act on my behalf?*

Yes, a legally authorised representative, such as a Guardian or a Power of Attorney may act on your behalf, however you are required to provide a signed authorisation allowing them to do so.

## *How long will it take to process my application?*

This will depend, in part, on how much information you can supply ComSuper at the time you apply. There could be delay in determining your eligibility should records and information prove difficult to locate.

**Please note:** ComSuper will process your application as soon as all supporting documentation is to hand. We request that you fully complete the form to reduce any delay in processing.

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## *When will my pension commence?*

It will commence with effect from 1 January 2008 or from the date the application is received at ComSuper – whichever is the latter.

*The pension is **prospective only** and will not be backdated to the day it was ceased.*

## *How much will I receive?*

Your new pension payment will be at the same rate you would have received, adjusted in line with the consumer price index (if appropriate or earlier equivalent), had your pension not been cancelled.

## *Will this effect any other payments I am receiving?*

It may. You need to inform any agency that pays you a benefit that is income tested.

This payment, however, is not affected by other payments you may receive.

**Note: This document contains general advice or information only**

Any financial product advice in this document is general advice only and has been prepared without taking account of your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Therefore, before acting on any such general advice, you should consider the appropriateness of the advice, having regard to your own objectives, financial situation or needs. You may wish to do so with or without the assistance of a licensed financial adviser.

## *What if I die while the application is being finalised?*

If you die while the application is being finalised ComSuper will pay a lump sum to your Estate. This amount will be based on the amount of pension that would have been payable for the period from 1 January 2008 (or the date of receipt of your application form if lodged after that date) through to your date of death.

## *Where can I find more information?*

If you need any further information on reversionary pensions please contact ComSuper directly on:

Phone: Customer Service Centre:  
1300 001 877

Fax: (02) 6272 9616

Website: [www.dfrdb.gov.au](http://www.dfrdb.gov.au)

Email: [members@dfrdb.gov.au](mailto:members@dfrdb.gov.au)

Post: PO Box 22  
Belconnen ACT 2616

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