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Commonwealth Department of
Veterans' Affairs

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18 November 1998

Dear CJB,

**THIS LETTER IS ABOUT YOUR DISABILITY PENSION
ASSESSMENT**

DECISION

I have decided to increase the disability pension to the Special Rate with effect from 17 October 1996. Entitlement to payment at this rate commences from 24 October 1996, the first pension pay date after the date of effect. Arrears will be calculated from this date.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Your claim

On 14 October 1998 the Veterans' Review Board accepted that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was related to service and referred the case to the Repatriation Commission for assessment of the disability pension.

Date of effect

I have increased the disability pension with effect from 17 October 1996 as this is the date specified by the Veterans' Review Board when it accepted Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Assessment of Pension

The rate of pension payable for accepted disabilities is assessed under the *"Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veterans' Pensions"* (GARP). Under GARP an overall medical impairment rating is combined with a lifestyle rating to give a percentage of General Rate Pension.

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Assessment of Pension with effect from 17 October 1996

Impairment

In this case I have assigned an impairment rating of **50 points**.

Lifestyle

In this case I have assigned a lifestyle rating of **5 points**.

The combination of an impairment rating of 50 points and a lifestyle rating of 5 gives a pension assessment of 100 per cent of the General Rate.

When pension is assessed at 100% of the General Rate, or on application, I must decide whether or not the Intermediate Rate, the Special Rate or Extreme Disablement Adjustment is payable.

Based on reports furnished by Dr Alexander Scott Murray and your Local Medical Officer, I am satisfied that the extent of incapacity now arising out of your accepted disabilities accounts solely for your inability to engage in remunerative employment for more than eight hours a week – and that such incapacity is permanent.

Payment of Pension

Advice about regular pension payments and any backpayments due will be forwarded separately.

General information about payment of the pension is contained in the Information Leaflet.

Treatment Eligibility

The different treatment benefits offered by the Department are explained in the Information Leaflet.

YOUR OBLIGATIONS

The Veterans' Entitlements Act requires you to tell the Department of Veterans' Affairs if certain events or changes happen or are likely to happen. These may affect the pension payable or treatment benefits.

You must tell the Department **within 21 days** if:

- you claim, receive or become entitled to receive any payment, compensation or damages for service related incapacity or incapacity for which you have been treated at departmental expense; or
- you start paid work or increase the hours you work.

A decision made about a disability pension claim will not change your service pension obligations. If you also get a service pension you will have been told already about your obligations to tell us of changes that may affect your service pension.

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RIGHT OF APPEAL

If you are not satisfied with any part of my decision you can ask the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) to review the case. You have to do this in writing. The time limit for lodging an application to the VRB is **3 months** from when you are deemed to have received advice of my decision. Appeals are explained in more detail in the Information Leaflet.

When an appeal is lodged, a report is compiled in which all documents used in the decision making process are copied and forwarded to you, the VRB, and your representative (if you have nominated one). After receipt of this report, if further document copies are required or you wish to view your files, an application should be made through Freedom of Information.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

You can apply to see documents on your Veterans' Affairs files, see the Information Leaflet for details.

HELP AVAILABLE

Help is available to assist you in dealing with any part of this decision, the reasons for it and appeal rights by contacting:

- Michael (L200), as per contact details above, for matters relating to this decision or reasons for the decision; or
- an ex-service organisation - their addresses and telephone numbers are listed in the telephone book.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Weiss
Delegate of the Repatriation Commission