



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Thursday 9.00
~~37/3~~
7/4/16

Telephone: REDACTED
Toll Free: 1800 555 254

Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
Melbourne Vic 3001

File Reference: SPA0073-02

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Mr DAVID SPARREBOOM

REDACTED

REDACTED QLD 4570

REDACTED

Dear Mr SPARREBOOM

SAFETY, REHABILITATION & COMPENSATION ACT 1988 (SRCA)

I refer to your claim for compensation for a "severe depression" condition. I have considered it carefully, however the evidence has failed to establish that there is liability to pay compensation.

For a claim to be successful under the Act, the evidence has to show that it is probable, and not merely possible, that your military service contributed to a material degree to the causation, aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of the disease.

I note that you previously elected to have your claim, which alleges that the onset of your depression condition was due to abuse & bastardisation you suffered at Balcombe Army Apprentice School in 1970, placed in abeyance.

I understand that you contacted the Department of Veterans' Affairs again on 1 March 2016 and spoke to social worker, Ms Josephine Bartley and requested that your claim be determined.

DECISION

I determine that the claim is disallowed. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any reference in your Defence psychological or medical documents to the claimed events.

Background to claim

I note that you enlisted in the Australian Army on 16 January 1970 and you were discharged on 25 October 1974.

You submitted a claim for 'severe depression' under the SRCA. In your statement, you alleged that you had been abused and bastardised at Balcombe Army Apprentice School when you were a junior recruit in 1970.

-2-

In determining your claim I have had reference to: the full brief of evidence used in determining your claim for reparation from the Defence Abuse Reparation Taskforce, including your statutory declaration in support of your claim; a psychiatric report from Dr Chris Martin, 18 September 2014, diagnosing that you suffer from PTSD, which he attributes to your stressors experienced during your period of military service; medical records from Nambour General Hospital; your Defence psychological and medical records.

I have accepted Dr Martin's specialist report as evidence that you are suffering from a *posttraumatic stress disorder* condition and I have accepted this diagnosis as answering your claim for a 'severe depression' condition. I also note that Dr Martin reports that you were first hospitalised for psychiatric treatment in the Sunshine Coast Private Hospital, in 1991. For the purposes of your claim, I have deemed the onset date of your condition as 1 January 1991 as the exact date for which you first sought psychiatric treatment for a diagnosable condition is not known.

I note that you have stated in your DART submission that you did not report the incidents of abuse or bastardisation as you believed this would have made things worse for you. Unfortunately, therefore, there are no entries in your Defence records which corroborate the events which you state occurred.

Under the SRCA, I need to be satisfied that your diagnosed condition was materially contributed to by your Defence service.

Unfortunately, as I have no contemporaneous evidence to support your claim in the form of Defence, medical or other records from that time, I am unable to accept liability for your diagnosed condition.

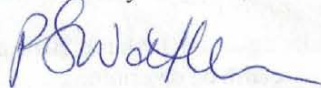
Rights of review

Enclosed is a brochure which explains your rights under the Act. Please read it carefully.

Contact

If you would like to discuss anything please phone me on REDACTED or contact Ms Josephine Bartley, social worker, on REDACTED.

Yours sincerely



Petra Watson-McNamara
Delegate of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission

Enclosures:

- 1 MRC27 Reconsideration and Review of Decisions