



# Media Release

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Minister for Indigenous Health

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Centenary of Anzac

Friday, 15 July 2011

VA051

**\*\*UPDATED 28 JULY 2011\*\***

## VETERAN COMMUNITY SUPPORTED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said the Gillard Labor Government is providing a tailored package of household assistance payments for the veteran and ex-service community to deal with the impact of a carbon price.

"The Australian Government has a plan to build a Clean Energy Future for our children and grandchildren by taxing our biggest polluters - and return every cent to assist households, support jobs and tackle climate change.

"Because some of these big polluters may choose to pass on these costs to households, we have announced a comprehensive household assistance package to provide support payments to approximately 350,000 veterans, their families, war widows and widowers.

"This is a comprehensive support package that will ensure households with the greatest need are not adversely affected by a carbon price," Mr Snowdon said.

"Through a combination of lump-sum payments and ongoing fortnightly or quarterly supplements, eligible veterans and their families will receive direct financial assistance to help with the costs of a price on carbon."

Payments will commence in May 2012 with the 'Clean Energy Advance', an upfront payment of between **\$140 and \$380**.

This will go to eligible service pensioners, seniors supplement recipients, war widows and widowers, disability pensioners, permanent impairment recipients and wholly dependent partners (under the *Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*).

Following the up-front payment, from March 2013, ongoing assistance for this group will be provided through either fortnightly or quarterly payments. These payments will amount to an increase in benefits of between \$7.40 and \$20.90 per fortnight.

A service pensioner on the single rate will receive \$250 upfront in May or June 2012 and after March 2013, \$13.50 in ongoing fortnightly payments, with couples receiving \$190 upfront each and from March 2013, \$10.20 ongoing per fortnight.

For a veteran on a disability pension, their payment will depend on the rate of pension. Veterans receiving up to 100 per cent Disability Pension will receive **\$140** upfront and \$7.40 per fortnight ongoing, while a veteran on Special Rate (TPI) will receive **\$380** upfront in June 2012 and \$20.90 per fortnight in March 2013.

Veterans on a disability pension and service pension receive both payments.

Children of veterans and members receiving payments under children's education schemes will also receive assistance. They will receive two lump sum payments—in June 2012 and 2013—with ongoing assistance commencing on 1 January 2014.

Veterans that earn an income may also benefit from tax cuts. All taxpayers, whose income is up to \$80,000 will get a tax cut, with most getting a cut of at least \$300.

It is important that veterans have access to direct information about what a carbon price means for them.

For more information on the full suite of measures please visit [www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au) or call 1800 057 590.

Please see the attached document for a full breakdown of payment amounts announced as part of the assistance measures.

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The following tables set out the amounts announced for veterans, their families, war widows and widowers as part of the Government's Household Assistance Package to meet the cost impacts of a carbon price.

	Upfront assistance (9 month advance paid June 2012)	Ongoing assistance (from March 2013)
Service pension (single)	\$250.00	\$13.50 pf
Service pension (partnered - each)	\$190.00	\$10.20 pf
War widow(er)s	\$250.00	\$13.80 pf
10% - 100% disability pension	\$140.00	\$7.40 pf
EDA rate	\$210.00	\$11.50 pf
Intermediate rate	\$260.00	\$14.10 pf
Special rate	\$380.00	\$20.90 pf
MRCA SRDP	\$380.00	\$20.90 pf
MRCA wholly dependent partners	\$250.00	\$13.80 p/f
Seniors supplement (single)	\$250.00	\$13.50 pf (paid quarterly)
Seniors supplement (partnered – each)	\$190.00	\$10.20 pf (paid quarterly)
Carer payment (single) paid by Centrelink	\$250.00	\$13.50 pf
Carer payment (partnered) paid by Centrelink	\$190.00	\$10.20 pf

	Upfront assistance (12 month advance paid June 2012)	Ongoing assistance (from July 2013)
MRCA permanent impairment payments	\$190.00	\$7.40 pf

	Upfront assistance (12 month advance paid June 2012)	Upfront assistance (6 month advance paid July 2013)	Ongoing assistance (from January 2014)
VCES and MRCAETS (at home, 16-17 years old)	\$110.00	\$60.00	\$4.00
VCES and MRCAETS (at home, 18 or older)	\$130.00	\$70.00	\$4.80
VCES and MRCAETS (living away from home)	\$190.00	\$100.00	\$7.20
VCES and MRCAETS (homeless)	\$190.00	\$100.00	\$7.20

**UPDATE NOTE:** All figures in this table have been updated to reflect recent changes to original amounts announced for veterans, their families, war widows and widowers as part of the Government's Household Assistance Package to meet the cost impacts of a carbon price.

The figures contain the following changes:

- All disability pension rates and MRCA SRDP have now been rounded correctly.
- MRCA permanent impairment payments are now shown with the correct advance amount, correct advance period and correct commencement date of the supplement.
- War widow pension and MRCA wholly dependent now shown with the correct advance amount.

All amounts are indicative and are subject to change depending on future indexation of the underlying payments.