



Office of the Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MC20-002444

18 AUG 2020

Mr Trevor Benneworth
RAAF Radschool Association
trev@radschool.org.au

Dear Mr Benneworth

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 June 2020 concerning the recommendations of the Victorian Coroner in the inquest into the death of Mr Jesse Bird. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In relation to the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the Victorian Coroner, the recommendations relate to a number of Commonwealth portfolios and a response was lodged with the Coroners Court of Victoria on 7 July 2020. The Court has published the response to the recommendations, alongside the report of the inquest, on the Court's website at: www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for providing the link to your article on funeral benefits available under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*. Reforms to compensation arrangements for veterans are currently being explored through consideration of the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's report into *Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans – A Better Way to Support Veterans*. Any changes to compensation benefits would then need to be considered by Government in a Budget process.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Curtin', written over a large, faint, stylized signature.

Robert Curtin
Chief of Staff