

Mr Marcus Saltmarsh

Dear Commissioner Hayne,

Thank you for the detailed research and effective investigation that remains so important for the Australian people to believe that the banking and financial services sector will be held to account.

Veterans and Ex Service Organisations (ESO) have watched and listened with interest to your public hearings and recent coverage of the release of your interim report.

Our Prime Minister (PM) and Treasurer have been explaining that “no stone will be left unturned” and “These financial institutions ... are in a position of trust and that trust needs to be restored, and the Government will do everything possible so that the Australian people have the confidence and trust in the financial system that they expect”. Both of them have also said that if you need more time to achieve that, you will get it.

The Chair of the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Bank, Mark Bishop, said of the [REDACTED] that ‘they make the banks look like angels’. In an investigative report, [REDACTED] found the [REDACTED] had “been labelled a rip-off, opaque and not acting in members' best interests”. Your staff accepted a submission in Brisbane on behalf of all veterans regarding the [REDACTED] and systemic problems. This submission is based on the detailed research and actions taken in the administrative and judicial arenas of a small group of veterans supported now by large ESO, public servants, a major political party, cross benches and sections of the media.

Since the terms of reference were ratified in letters patent to you, the [REDACTED] has been uniquely excluded as a superannuation organisation by a convenient definition. Claims that it already undergoes “additional scrutiny” are simply not true and the evidence is there that the [REDACTED] have breached legislation, ignored the orders of a Federal Court Judge, misled a Senate Committee and have many more systemic problems.

We implore you to resolve the perceived confusion on who should ask or direct for more time and increased scope and ask the Government to give you both. In doing so, and to achieve no stone being left unturned, we ask that you include the [REDACTED] in the scope of your Commission.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Marcus Saltmarsh*

*01 Oct 2018*