



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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Federal Member for Cunningham

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### **A RUDD LABOR GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER FOR VETERANS AND WAR WIDOWS**

The Federal Labor MP's for Cunningham and Throsby welcomed today's announcement by the Leader of the Opposition that a Federal Labor Government would increase benefits for all of our Nation's disabled war veterans and war widows.

This new initiative will help around 2,043 brave men and women in the Cunningham and Throsby electorates.

It will increase the compensation that they richly deserve.

This initiative will ensure that all:

- Disability and War Widows' compensation payments currently administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be indexed by reference to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) - (*whichever one is greater*).

Currently general rate disability pensioners have their payments indexed only to CPI. The War Widows' domestic component is currently not indexed at all.

For our most disabled veterans this will grow to be worth up to \$30 per fortnight over 4 years.

Today's announcement builds on Federal Labor's earlier commitment to index the full amount of the compensation pensions provided to our most severely disabled war veterans to movements in both CPI and MTAWE (*whichever one is greater*).

Among those who will benefit are veterans who fought in conflicts including WWII, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, the Gulf War, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

10 September 2007