

BEST FUNDING 2012 – TIMs ARTICLE:

'Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST)

What is the BEST program?

The Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Grants program forms part of the Government's commitment to support the role of ex-service organisation (ESO) pensions and welfare practitioners and advocates, who provide advice and assistance to the veteran and defence communities. BEST assists by providing a contribution to the work of ESO practitioners. BEST links closely to the Training and Information Program (TIP). TIP provides the essential skills for claims, advocacy and welfare work in organisations that receive BEST funding.

BEST also provides funding for National ESOs to encourage co-operation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government. Funding for National ESOs aims to encourage the advancement of the objectives of ESOs.'

These words from the DVA website. Now what's happening.

BEST funding reduction by the Federal Government -

For those who came in late; Last year the Federal Government saw fit to change the way it administered and allocated vital funding to ex-service organisations. These 'BEST' grants form a vital part of funds that allow organisations like ours, to provide the expertise required, to administer our many offices and advise the veteran and defence community.

The Minister has now directed the DVA to implement a system where the ESO's lodging claims can be identified. This identification process will allow funds to be allocated on the basis of which ESO does the work by the issue of a points value for each particular type of claim.

Our Association has undertaken a course of action to pursue and deliver comprehensive business reporting that will provide quantitative assistance to the DVA in preparation of their BEST funding allocations in the future. More to come on this issue later.