Dear [title] [name]

As my [local Member of Parliament or Senate Representative0, I am writing to you to record my dismay regarding the conduct and report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry into the accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) members.

Like many DFRDB members, my hopes and expectations were raised by the announcement of the inquiry, and many dedicated considerable time and energy to make submissions.

However, I then watched - aghast - as poorly prepared Senators conducted a short hearing that barely scratched the surface of the issues.

This Committee’s report quoted extensively from submissions put to the inquiry but either failed to analyze or, in some cases, completely ignored the substance of those submissions. The superficiality of the report and its lack of credibility is exemplified in its farcical recommendation that ADF recruits and officer cadets should be provided with further education on the DFRDB scheme, which has been closed to new members for almost 30 years.

DFRDB recipients cannot take this report seriously, and neither should the Parliament.

Sadly, in the eyes of many DFRDB recipients, the main achievement of this inquiry has been to damage the credibility of those who conducted it.

In fairness to individual Senators, I appreciate that it is not humanly possible for a handful of Senators to deal adequately with the number, scope and complexity of the subjects of inquiries conducted by the Senate these days.  However, that is the result of choices made by the Senate.

Yours sincerely,