



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mr John Citizen
12 Third Street
Suburb STA 1000

1 October 2020
UIN: 123456
Claim number: SPIXXXX

Dear Mr John Citizen,

Your claim for permanent impairment compensation

Thank you for your patience while we assessed your application. I appreciate the time you gave me on the phone on 29 September 2020.

We received your claim for permanent impairment compensation on 8 August 2020 for the following condition:

- thoracic lumbar spondylosis.

Please note that the decision in this letter does not affect any other claims you may have lodged with DVA, or any payment you are currently receiving. It will not affect your eligibility for other support, such as incapacity payments, treatment or rehabilitation.

The outcome of your claim

Unfortunately, I am unable to approve your claim at this time. This letter explains why and how to contact us if you would like to talk about the decision. You may want to read through this letter with a trusted friend or family member, or your advocate or representative.

I know that this is not the news you were hoping for, but there may be other forms of assistance we can offer you, such as rehabilitation services or financial assistance. Please contact us for more information.

If your impairment changes, or if we accept any new service-related conditions, you can ask for a new assessment.

Why I am unable to approve your claim

I reached this decision because, based on the information available to me, the impairment does not meet the required threshold.

I have attached an explanation of how I reached this decision and the information I considered.

You can get support and counselling

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is a free and confidential 24-hour service for current and ex-serving ADF members and their families. Call 1800 011 046 or go to www.OpenArms.gov.au to get support or find out more.

If you would like us to review this decision

You can ask for a review within 30 days of receiving this letter. Please set out your reasons in writing and email your request to appeals@dva.gov.au or send it by post to GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001. You can go to www.dva.gov.au/appeals for details.

If you need more information

You can go to www.dva.gov.au/support-under-DRCA for more information.

You can call us on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or email perthpi@dva.gov.au if you have any questions about this letter or the decision. Please quote your claim number () when you call or in the subject line of the email.

Go to www.dva.gov.au/access-to-info to find out how to access documents held on your file.

Please contact us if you have difficulty accessing or downloading any of the information mentioned in this letter and ask us to send you a copy.

Yours sincerely,

Susie

Delegate

Position number: XXXXXX

REASONS FOR DECISION

*Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims)
Act 1988 (DRCA)*

I assessed your claim for permanent impairment compensation under the *Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation (Defence-claims) Act 1982 (DRCA)*. To make my decision, I needed to consider whether:

- you have an impairment resulting from your service-related condition(s)
- your impairment is permanent
- your impairment is included in Part 2 of the *Guide to the Assessment of the Degree of Permanent Impairment—Edition 2.1* ('the Guide')
- your impairment meets the thresholds for compensation
- you have previously received compensation.

We consider 'whole person impairment' (WPI) when assessing this type of claim. For permanent impairment compensation, your service-accepted conditions must cause WPI of 10% or more. The Guide clearly defines how we must assess WPI and the percentage points we can allocate to particular impairments. You can go to www.dva.gov.au/GARP to view the Guide.

To assess your claim, I used Dr Doctor Doctor's medical reports from 12 June 2020. These stated that you experience a minor restriction of movement in the thoraco-lumbar spine due to your thoracic spondylosis. Dr Doctor's reports are enclosed for your reference.

According to Table 7.6 in the Guide, this restriction of movement is equal to 5% WPI. As this is less than the minimum 10%, unfortunately I cannot approve your claim at this time.

Other information provided with your claim

Dr Doctor indicated on an Impairment Assessment form unrelated to your thoracic spondylosis that you may have an impairment in your lumbar spine at the L3 and L4 disc level with nerve involvement:

Dermatome or Peripheral Nerve (please enter details)	Minor Loss no functional impact	Moderate abnormality interferes with some activities	Significant abnormality interferes with most activities	Complete Sensory Loss
L3 & L4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unfortunately, I am unable to take this into consideration for this claim. However, if you have been diagnosed with a lumbar spine condition and it is related to your service, you could lodge a liability claim for that condition.

If it is accepted as service-related, you will be able to request a new permanent impairment compensation assessment, with your thoracic lumbar spondylosis and the new condition considered together.

Please call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or email perthpi@dva.gov.au if you would like more detailed information about how I assessed your claim.