



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

31 May 2004

Ref: 7/04

VIETNAM VETERAN'S TO FIGHT FOR BETTER DEAL

The National President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) Mr Brian McKenzie said today; during the 25th National Congress in Brisbane, the Association had renewed its commitment, as a peak Ex-service organisation, to work harmoniously and effectively in fighting for a better deal for Vietnam Veterans and their families, damaged by war.

Mr McKenzie said; our National Congress unanimously resolved to further enhance the Associations twelve part submission to the Clarke committee, and pursue the Government and Opposition for a better deal in the lead up to the Federal Election, expected in the latter part of this year.

We will be seeking assurances from all political parties that the needs of veterans and their families are properly addressed. Any hollow promises made for political expediency will be quickly identified by veterans and their families and disregarded; he said

Mr McKenzie said; Senator Mark Bishop, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, announced during the Congress that the health of veterans' children will be reviewed by a Labor government when elected, to determine the need for better programs of care and support, however no specific details were released.

Mr McKenzie said; the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Danna Vale opened the Congress and presented Sons and Daughters of Vietnam Veterans with Long Tan bursaries of \$6,000 in an emotionally charged ceremony.

Our concerns about the health and well being of our Sons and Daughters continue to be a major issue for us, and one of many issues which lead to the formation of the Association in 1979; he said.

Mr McKenzie said; I particularly want to welcome a newly elected National Vice President, Mr Ron Coxon from South Australia to the executive team. Mr Peter McCann, National Vice President from the Australian Capital Territory was re-elected, as well as Mr Geoff Trevor Hunt, National Secretary and Mr Rob Cox as National Treasurer, both from West Australia. I am delighted to have been elected for a fifth term as National President, and remain resolute in achieving better outcomes for all war veterans and their families

Our Queensland branch is to be congratulated for doing a great job in organising the event; he said.

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