

V.V.A.A. National President's Notes 1 August 2014

A consultation draft of the Veteran and Ex-Service Community Social Health Strategy 2014 (the Strategy) has been received and circulated for comment by members of the V.V.A.A.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson has officially launched a new dedicated website for the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) at the South Australian RSL Congress in Adelaide it can be accessed at www.vvcs.gov.au

The minister has also outlined a number of new treatment entitlements through the VVCS and details are available from the VVCS and DVA Web site.

Letters have been sent to the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mr Clive Palmer and the eight new cross bench Senators outlining the VVAA concerns related to the latest federal budget effect on veterans.

Applications for the 2015 Long Tan Bursaries and associated scholarships open with the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) on 18 August for more information have a look at their web site www.avcat.org.au the VVAA are an integral part of the administration of this trust.

In August I will be attending services commemorating the outbreak of World War One, The Japanese prisoner outbreak at Cowra and of course the Vietnam veterans Day commemorative services.

I will be attending a meeting of the president of ex-service organisations, the Ex-service Round Table (ESORT) and a Defence Department ex-service organisations briefing day.

Over the past weeks there have been a number of queries raised regarding the professional indemnity insurance cover for our welfare officers, pension officers and advocates, a letter clarifying the position has been received from the Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association (VITA) and this letter has been distributed to all national executive members and state branches.

By now all should have received their Winter edition of Debrief magazine, if not, may I suggest you talk to your sub branch executive.

And finally, there have been questions asked about the VVAA policy regarding indexation of pensions and military superannuation, the two entitlements are entirely different and should not be confused, at his time our policy is that all indexation should remain as is and any proposed changes included in the last federal budget should be set aside.

The Department of Veterans Affairs are reviewing a revised process for rehabilitation and compensation services, information has been forwarded to the national executive and states for their information and comments.