



DEBRIEF

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Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

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HONOUR THE DEAD, But Fight like Hell for the Living

National President's Report.

On 5 May I took part in a video recording session with DVA / VVCS Staff followed by a meeting at DVA National office to discuss a new VVCS program based on transition, any proposed changes will be distributed for discussion if and when they occur.

On 9 May I attended a DVA briefing on the 2017 Federal Budget followed by a visit to Parliament house while the budget was presented by the Federal Treasurer, in all, from a veterans point of view, a good budget.

15th to 19th May I was in Canberra again for the National executive meeting followed by the National Council meeting followed by the national Congress. A very productive week, minutes and reports will be distributed through state branches however I should bring to your attention the following changes to the VVAA Administration Handbook, they include;

Policy A 004 Risk Assessment.

Policy AP 005 Advocacy training and Development program , Advocacy coordinator.

Policy FI 005 Public Liability and Volunteer Insurance.

Policy FI 006 Capitation Fees.

Policy FI 008 QANTAS Club membership

Policy ME 003 Maintenance of list of members.

Policy ME 006 Membership records.

The 2016 National Executive was re-elected and on their behalf I thank the members for their ongoing support and confidence.

On 25 May 2017 I was advised that John David Printz OAM had passed away, John was a Past VVAA National president in 1994 and 1995 granted National Life Membership in 2000. Included in Johns works was his long time management of the Training Information Program (TIP) and his later involvement in the transition to the Advocacy Training Development Program (ATDP), May he rest in peace.

On 29 May I visited Canberra for a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs and had the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to our association, I also took the opportunity to call on the Ministers for Veterans Affairs and had a discussion with a member of his staff.

Ken Foster OAM JP
National President

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VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

We acknowledge the passing of John David (Kiwi) PRINTZ OAM.

25 May 2017

May I express the deep sense of loss also experienced by those who know him
and worked with him for the benefit of other veterans.

John set a standard that could not be matched by others in his dedication to a task.

As a past National President and life member of the V.V.A.A. followed by his work with the
Training and Information Program (TIP) John set a standard of excellence.

He would not flinch from any task he undertook.

His efforts were 100% or not at all.

On behalf of the National Executive of the VVAA and the extended V.V.A.A. membership,

May I express our condolences to those he loved, those that loved him,
and the extended family of which he was a part.

May he rest in peace.

Ken Foster OAM JP
National President
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
26 May 2017

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line

24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.

Phone **1800 011 046.**

OUR MILITARY HISTORY– JUNE

14 June 1966 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in South Vietnam. The deployment of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, to Vietnam formed part of Australia's build-up of forces in Phouc Tuy province in the mid-1960s. D Company from this battalion became involved in the battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

2 June 1967 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Vietnam, By 1967 Australia's commitment to the war in Vietnam was increasing as the Australian Task Force expanded its control over areas of Phuc Tuy Province.

7 June 1968 Australian Prime Minister Gorton begins two-day visit to Vietnam against a background of both a growing Australian military commitment to the war and steadily increasing, though not yet overwhelming, domestic opposition.

6 June 1969 Battle of Binh Ba, South Vietnam, Binh Ba, located 6 kilometres north of the Australian base at Nui Dat was the site of a battle between an Australian Ready Reaction Force and a combined force of Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese Army troops who had occupied the village. The enemy were driven off after more than a day's fighting.

30 June 1971 Final anti-war rally 110,000 people in Australian cities demonstrated against the war in Vietnam.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) celebrated its 35th birthday on 29 January 2017.

VVCS, known originally as the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service, provides free mental health counselling and support to those who have served our nation.

It has provided more than 1.6 million counselling sessions to more than 300,000 veterans and family members since the first office opened in Adelaide on 29 January 1982.

VVCS is the legacy of our Vietnam veterans, who recognised a need for mental health services specifically for those who had served in the military.

VVCS now provides services to more than 27,000 clients a year, with centres throughout Australia and a strong network of outreach counsellors in regional and rural areas.

Our commitment to providing support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families remains as strong as ever.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

QANTAS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

BACKGROUND

The National executive has made arrangements whereby VVAA members and supporters (members) have access to membership of the Qantas Club (QC) at Corporate rates.

Members are personally responsible for determining whether QC membership is in their best interests. Benefits and limitations of membership are available on the Qantas website at: <https://www.qantas.com/travel/airlines/qantas-club/global/en>

Membership costs are listed on the above website under 'Membership Types'.

Members who wish to take advantage of this offer must obtain an application form and proof of membership (documentation) from the Treasurer VVAA.

PROCESS

Requests for documentation must be made by a member's Branch or Sub Branch, from the official email address of the Branch or Sub Branch, as verifiable on the National, Branch, or Sub Branch website. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure the bona fides of members.

Requests must be made to the VVAA Treasurer at: treasurer@vva.org.au

Requests must include the postal address of the member. Documentation is posted direct to the member.

The member completes the documentation including payment details and forwards it to the QC Corporate account manager at the address provided in the documentation.

If approved, the member receives a QC membership card direct from Qantas. All future correspondence, including renewals, is between Qantas and the member.



The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC



Supporting Younger Veterans Grants

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan recently announced \$4.25 million for a grants program to support younger veterans.

The Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) Grants Program will provide \$4.25 million over five years to ex-service organisations to encourage partnerships that will deliver innovative and sustainable services for younger veterans.

"The Government recognises the importance of the transition phase for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel as they leave the military," Mr Tehan said.

"That is why we have taken steps to make the transition process easier by ensuring all personnel have the appropriate documentation when they leave the ADF and why we launched the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program to help our veterans realise their full skills and potential in their post-service careers.

"This new grant program delivers another election commitment to support the needs of younger veterans as they leave the ADF and will provide resources to raise awareness of the important issues faced by younger veterans."

Applications for a special round of SYV grants totalling \$250,000 will close on 26 May 2017, and successful applicants will be announced in June 2017. Future rounds of the grants will open 1 July each year, commencing 2017, and will close 1 September each year, until 2020.

Applicants can apply for grants through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website at www.dva.gov.au. Follow the Consultation and Grants/

Increased reimbursement for medical expenses

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan recently said veterans could now claim up to \$1,000 reimbursement for medical expenses when they have applied to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) or the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC) review process.

Mr Tehan said the reimbursement amount had been increased from \$467.50 to \$1,000 for each medical condition to encourage the early submission of medical evidence.

"This measure fulfils another election commitment and will encourage veterans applying for a review at the VRB to get any necessary medical evidence as soon as possible to help speed up the review process," Mr Tehan said.

"Increasing the amount that can be reimbursed will ensure those applying to the VRB are appropriately remunerated for any relevant out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred as a result of obtaining evidence for VRB hearings."

"The Government is committed to supporting the veteran community and their families, and this new measure further demonstrates work to strengthen this support."

If you would prefer to have this publication emailed directly to you please forward your email address to the National Secretary at secretary@vwaa.org.au.

Don't forget to advise him if the address changes.

The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC



Mental health support for veterans and their families, and medical coverage for veterans of nuclear testing

The Government will expand the range of mental health conditions current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members can seek treatment for on a non-liability basis as part of the 2017–18 Budget.

The Government will also provide a Gold Card to cover the health care costs of the surviving participants of the British Nuclear Test program in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s and veterans who served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). The Government has allocated \$133.1 million for this initiative to cover eligible veterans.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said this year's Budget represented a significant increase in funding of \$350 million in support of veterans and demonstrated the Government's commitment to the men and women who defend our nation.

"The Government is focused on responding to the mental health needs of our former ADF personnel and providing support that will help them to achieve a fulfilling post service life," Mr Tehan said.

"In last year's Budget, we made treatment for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and drug and alcohol misuse free for anyone who had served a day in the full-time ADF.

"The \$33.5 million expansion of the non-liability health care program to cover all mental health conditions announced in tonight's Budget recognises that the earlier a veteran gets treatment, the better the health and other outcomes. This includes access to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

"Importantly, a veteran does not have to prove their mental health condition is related to their service. The funding for mental health treatment is demand-driven and not capped – if an eligible person requires treatment, it will be paid for."

Mr Tehan said the Government understands that partners, families and former partners of veterans are affected by military service. In recognition of this, the Budget will provide \$8.5 million to expand eligibility for VVCS.

"The partners and children of our contemporary veterans, who have had one day of full-time service, will have access to the services and support provided by VVCS, including counselling and group programs," Mr Tehan said.

"Former partners of ADF personnel will also be able to access VVCS up to five years after a couple separates or while co-parenting a child under the age of 18.

"VVCS is the frontline mental health service for those in the veteran community and is a vital service that saves lives. It is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046."

Mr Tehan said that as an initial step in the Government's response to the National Mental Health Commission's report into suicide prevention services, and our broader commitment to addressing mental health issues, it was providing \$9.8 million to pilot new approaches to suicide prevention and improve care and support available to veterans.

"The Mental Health Clinical Management Pilot will assess the benefits of providing intensive clinical management to help meet a veteran's complex mental health and social needs on discharge from a mental health hospital," Mr Tehan said.

"We will also pilot an expansion of the successful Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) program to improve support for veterans with both chronic physical and mental health conditions as a result of their service."

Mr Tehan said the Government would provide \$2.7 million for the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program, launched in November last year.

"The money will be used to support the recently established Industry Advisory Committee, create an Ex-Service Organisation Industry partnership register and develop and manage the annual Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards.

"The Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program is about helping business appreciate the unique skills former ADF members can bring to a job. Helping our former Defence personnel find meaningful post-service careers is one of the best ways we can honour their service and sacrifice."

Mr Tehan said funding of \$166.6 million would be provided in this year's Budget to implement the first stage of Veteran Centric Reform to modernise the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) antiquated ICT systems to provide easier access to DVA services.

"This is a significant investment to improve how the Department meets the needs of its clients and is a critical part of bringing DVA's ICT into the 21st century," Mr Tehan said.

"As part of this, DVA will implement a suite of initiatives to support members to successfully transition out of the ADF, such as conducting a two-year trial that will allow veterans to access medical treatment while their Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 or Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 claims are processed.

"Veterans and their families have told us there were problems with the way DVA processed claims. We have listened and we have responded with money to deliver better support and services for veterans, underpinned by digital access, streamlined processes and modern technology."

The Government has committed an additional \$19.6 million over two years to support domestic and international commemorative activities for the Anzac Centenary and Century of Service, and the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2018.

Additional Budget measures for veterans include:

- \$18.0 million as part of the Government's Energy for the Future Package so more than 235,000 DVA clients will receive a one-off payment for energy bills
- \$9.1 million for accelerated access to rehabilitation services, streamlined access to Incapacity Payments, and improved access to the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated disability pension for veterans working past the age of 65
- \$1.2 million to continue the income support bonus for DVA clients receiving an Education Allowance under either the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES), or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS)
- \$5.0 million to develop a first pass business case for the Australian War Memorial to examine ways to provide additional exhibition space.

The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC



2016 Client Satisfaction Survey results support client centric reform

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said the \$166.6 million provided in this year's Budget to implement the first stage of modernising the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) processes and IT system would improve client satisfaction with DVA as results of the 2016 Client Satisfaction Survey were released today.

The 2016 Client Satisfaction Survey of more than 3,000 randomly selected DVA clients, including veterans, war widows/ers, carers and dependants, found an overall satisfaction rating with DVA services of 83%.

Mr Tehan said the survey had found DVA needed to continue addressing the specific needs and concerns of younger veterans, especially during their transition from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to civilian life.

"The Government is committed to improving the DVA claims process for veterans and making the transition to civilian life for ADF personnel as stress-free as possible," Mr Tehan said.

"That's why in this year's Budget the Government provided \$166.6 million to deliver better support and services for veterans, underpinned by digital access, streamlined processes and modern technology.

"We also provided \$2.7 million to support the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program that will help ADF personnel find post-service employment that utilises their unique talents."

Results from the 2016 survey are available on the [DVA website](#).

A LESSON IN LOGIC

Thought you all might appreciate this great bit of logic in the week of the federal budget.

This is especially for the vast number of people who truly believe that the government owes them!!!

An economics teacher at a local TAFE made a statement that he had never failed a single student before but had recently failed an entire class. That class had insisted that socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich: a great equalizer. The teacher then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on this plan. All grades will be averaged and everyone will receive the same grade so no one will fail and no one will receive an 'A' (substituting grades for dollars - something closer to home and more readily understood by all).

After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a "B". The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy. As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little. The second test average was a "D"! No one was happy. When the 3rd test rolled around, the average was an "F".

As the tests proceeded, the scores never increased, as bickering, blame, and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings, and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else. To their great surprise ALL FAILED and the teacher told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed.

Could not be any simpler than that!

This experiment demonstrated 5 basic logical principles :

1. You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity.
2. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving.
3. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else.
4. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it!
5. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation.

Can you think of a reason for not sharing this?

Neither could I.



Fighter Pilots

Q: How do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?

A: He'll tell you.

Q: What's the difference between God and fighter pilots

A: God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

Q: What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?

A: A jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc

ADMINISTRATION HANDBOOK

AP 005

ADVOCACY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ADVOCACY CO-ORDINATOR

Adopted May 2017

The VVAA Advocacy Training and Development Program Co-ordinator is appointed by the VVAA National Council to ensure the VVAA is not exposed to un-necessary risk of litigation by the action of welfare and/ or compensation advocates acting on VVAA authorisation, and that all training and future development is appropriate to VVAA needs.

The co-ordinator is to ensure:

- All advocates currently operating under Training and Information Program (TIP) training are given the opportunity to undertake recognition of prior learning assessment under the ATDP protocols.
- That advocates not yet assessed under ATDP protocols have their currency under TIP training and/or refresher training be assessed for currency of training. (A three year period is accepted as current).
- The co-ordinator is to assist states in arranging recognition of prior learning, or, new training under ATDP programs.
- The co-ordinator is to assist states in identifying the most suitable advocates, mentors and assessors for the VVAA future needs.
- The co-ordinator is to be available to assist and advise advocates with a goal of producing the most effective and efficient advocates possible.
- The co-ordinator is to liaise with VITA regarding professional indemnity insurance matters and protocols.

V.V.A.A. National Council of May 2017 appointed Ken Foster as the co-ordinator.

THE WAR WIDOWS GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

“We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life.”



A strong part of the Guilds History is the origins of its Logo.

The kookaburra was adopted as the Guilds Logo from its early inception and remains today.

The Kookaburra is also present on all War Widows' Guild Badges.

MAIL BOX

REUNION— 30 TERMINAL SQN RAE.

I am trying to organise a reunion for current and ex members of **30 terminal Sqn (Termites)**

We are having a reunion in Sydney next year on the 17-19 Nov 2017 and this is also the 75th anniversary of the trade

And we would like to find any of the boys and pass on this invite

My details are below

Any help will be much appreciated

Craig Ingram 0407173321 craingram@westnet.com.au



A very posh British surgeon at a field hospital looks down at at
bleeding and moaning Australian 'digger':

Surgeon: "My God, man! Did you come in here to die!"

Aussie: "No, Sir, I came in here yesterday"



"MY DOG NUI DAT"

Written by Peter Simpson

Sung by Dale Duncan on his album

BACK TO THE BUSH

To order contact Peter Izod

0418 245 058

Peterizod.ammo6@bigpond.com

VETERAN FRIENDLY RETREATS

Future listing of these facilities should be available on the various VVAA State branch web sites and these can be accessed through the web site www.vvaa.org.au



HAVE YOUR SAY— LETTERS TO DEBRIEF ARE WELCOME

The subject matter should be generally of interest to Vietnam Veterans and their families. Brief, to the point letters have a better chance of publication. Photographs should be of good colour, quality and subject matter, in jpg or similar format. Text should be submitted in Word format with minimum formatting. Vietnam Veteran writers must identify themselves by name, state, Vietnam Unit and Tour dates. Email: debrief@vvaa.org.au



NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

Phillip Island Victoria.

The NVVM seeks to remember, interpret and understand the experience of the veterans of Australia's longest war and the enduring impact of the war on society.

Located in Veterans Drive (just next to the airfield on the main Phillip Island Road) this volunteer created and run museum is home to a huge collection of artifacts, both large and small, interpreted with information, imagery and audio (using our fantastic InfoWand devices and touch screens). It will keep you, your family and friends engaged for the length of your visit.

At NVVM you will see the conscription ballot balls used in the system of National Service that divided our nation. You will walk beneath and around such key vehicles as helicopters, a tank, even a bomber used in Vietnam. See yourself in the boots of a Tunnel Rat or the helmet of a Chopper Pilot. Endlessly fascinating and absorbing, no matter what age group. Expect the unexpected.





UNIT HISTORIES –VIETNAM



4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment

4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) was raised at Woodside on 1 February 1964. The first regular infantry battalion to be raised in Australia, 4RAR served in Malaysia as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve from August 1965 to September 1967. Upon its return the battalion began training for service in Vietnam.

4RAR relieved 2RAR on 1 June 1968. It was based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province. V3 and W1 Companies from the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) joined the battalion and on 2 June it was formally renamed 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion.

On 23 June the battalion joined Operation Toan Thang II (13 June-18 July) on the Bien Hoa-Long Binh border. It then operated patrols through Phuoc Tuy. 4RAR/NZ was deployed to the Long Khanh-Bien Hoa border on 15 September, as part of Operation Hawkesbury (12-24 September). Through patrols, ambushes, and searches, the battalion was able to disrupt Viet Cong activity in the area and deny them access to supplies. The battalion returned to Nui Dat on 24 September.

4RAR/NZ returned to the Long Khanh-Bien Hoa border for Operation Goodwood (3 December-19 February) on 27 December. Goodwood was a reaction to an increase in Viet Cong activity that suggested an offensive was being planned. The battalion carried out patrols and reconnaissance. It was engaged in this operation until 19 February, having a brief respite at Nui Dat from 13 January to 7 February. On 19 February the battalion joined Operation Federal (17 February-2 April) in the Bien Hoa province, leaving the operation on 24 March. On 8 April the battalion began Operation Overlander (8-17 April) in the Bien Hoa province. It returned to Phuoc Tuy on 17 April.

The battalion was replaced by 6RAR on 1 May and departed for Australia on 19 May. In between operations, the battalion underwent training exercises. It returned to Vietnam in May of 1971, relieving 2RAR.

4RAR/NZ continued with pacification operations in Phuoc Tuy. The 1st Australian Task Force had adopted a "pacification programme" as its first priority in April 1969. This involved seeking out and destroying the enemy in its base areas, preventing enemy access to the civilian population, and helping to create a secure climate for South Vietnamese social, political, and military life. This work was demanding, dangerous, and monotonous for the troops. It was the primary task carried out by the battalion during its second tour.

4 RAR Continued

The last battles fought by Australians in Vietnam occurred during Operation Ivanhoe (18 September-2 October 1971). Intelligence reports had alerted 4RAR/NZ to the presence of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in northern Phuoc Tuy. The battalion engaged the troops and became involved in heavy fighting. Although it sustained comparatively high casualties during these engagements, 4RAR/NZ was successful in hindering NVA attempts to move further south.

The withdrawal of Australian forces from the area cut short 4RAR/NZ's tour. It completed eight of its twelve-month tour and was the last Australian battalion to leave Vietnam. On 7 November 1971 it withdrew from Nui Dat to Vung Tau, before departing for Australia on 8 December.

Commanding officers; • Greville, Leon Roderic • Hughes, James Curnow "Jim"

Decorations:

First tour: 1 DSO; 1 MBE; 6 MC (3MC); 1 DSM; 5 DCM (2 NZ); 1 MM; 15 MID (2 NZ).

Second tour: 1 DSO; 2 MC; 2 MM; 7 MID.

"Anyone can give up, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that's true strength."

JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE STRUGGLING DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE FAILING. EVERY GREAT SUCCESS REQUIRES SOME KIND OF STRUGGLE TO GET THERE.

YOUR ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN DEBRIEF

States and sub branches are encouraged to contribute reports on their activities, particularly an opportunity to let others know what is happening in your area.

Email text in Word or photos in JPG to the editor at www.debrief@vva.org.au