

## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Incorporated in NSW ARBN 068 073 450 NATIONAL PATRON RADM NEIL RALPH AO DSC RAN

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## MEDIA STATEMENT 11 November 2013 Recognition of Afghanistan veterans at ANZAC Day 2014

The National President Mr. Ken Foster today was asked by a reporter of a national radio network to comment on reports the Department of Defence was suggesting to the National Returned and Services League that as coordinators of ANZAC Day marches in Australia they invite veterans of the Afghanistan War to lead the march in April 2014.

Response was as follows.

"I do not believe Vietnam veterans would have any objection to this suggestion, in fact such recognition would be a positive move and a potential benefit to the mental wellbeing of these Australian Veterans of the Afghanistan War.

To compare this recognition to the response Vietnam veterans received as they returned home and the positive effect of the later welcome home would more than justify this recognition.

I would also wish them all well as they return home and hope that this can be achieved without further casualties."

For more information contact the National President on 0413 046 077.