

**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA  
VICTORIAN BRANCH (INC)**



**MELBOURNE WEST SUB-BRANCH**

**NEWSLETTER**

**March 2010**

**([www.melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au](http://www.melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au))**

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## Committee

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Vice President	Alan Scott	Ph: 9369 5504 Email: alan274@bigpond.net.au
Secretary/Treasurer	Ray Matthew	Ph: 9749 2835 Email: secretary@melbournwest.vvaavic.org.au PO Box 1430 Werribee Plaza Vic 3030
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Committee	Brendan Lynch	Ph: 9741 4157
Committee	Pierre Goss	
Committee	Bogie Knight	Ph: 9360 0439
Committee	John Mines	Ph: 9741 4098
Committee	Eddie Taylor	Ph: 9741 6495
Committee	Heather Taylor	Ph: 9741 6495

### **Western Suburbs Veterans' and Services Centres**

12 Smith Street (PO Box 981)  
Melton 3337  
Phone: 9746 9582 Fax: 9746 9583  
Mondays to Thursdays

Kelly Park Community Centre  
4 Synnot Street (next to RSL Club)  
Werribee 3030  
Ph: 9731 1608 (Wed only)  
Wednesdays 10:00 till 14:00  
Email: werribeevetcentre@westnet.com.au

Pensions: Alan Shanahan, Barry Yovkoff,  
Heather Taylor (training)

Welfare: Vic Pilch 9749 5281  
Brendan Lynch, Eddie Taylor, Fran Ruddle

### **Inner Metro Veterans' and Services Centre**

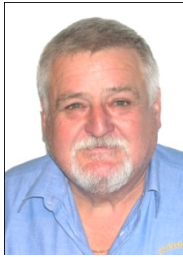
Ph: 9282 3518 Fax: 9282 7854

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Editor: Sub-Branch Committee -- Publisher: Tony Hind

From President Vic:



1. Our Sub Branch AGM held on Sunday 7/2/2010 was well attended (23 Members) with only a few changes to Committee. I will be continuing as President for another term; Alan Scott is our new Vice President; and Ray Matthew has taken over as Secretary/Treasurer from Tony Hind (who will remain on the Committee). We believe that our Sub Branch is well equipped administratively to meet the challenges that lie ahead in 2010.
2. Membership renewals for 2010 have been good and the Sub Branch finances are fairly healthy.
3. The problems experienced in 2009 with lack of Pension Officers to properly man the Veterans' Welfare Centre at Kelly Park, Werribee have been solved especially now that we have a TIP trained Advocate on board. The Centre is running effectively since reopening on 10<sup>th</sup> February.
4. We will be continuing our practice of rotating our month committee meetings at the various RSL's in the Western suburbs and hopefully we can pick up even more Members who otherwise might 'slip through the net'.
5. In conjunction with Werribee RSL and their Ladies Auxiliary we sponsored a total of four children from disadvantaged families in our area to attend the Portsea Camp in January. A thank you letter from the children concerned indicated just how much they got out of the experience.
6. Last Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February five of our Members volunteered to assist the Darwin Defenders Association at their commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance which was greatly appreciated by the Association and was a gratifying experience for our volunteers.
7. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month luncheon at Werribee RSL where our Members and their wives have the opportunity to enjoy some fellowship with some senior veterans from the RSL continues to be well patronised. Visitors from other Sub Branches would be made welcome.
8. In conclusion, on behalf of the Members of our Sub Branch I would like to acknowledge the fine job that Peter Bright has done during his tenure as State Secretary and wish him and his family well for the future.

*Vic Pilech*

**President, VVAA Melbourne West Sub Branch**

From (Secretary/Treasurer) Ray:



Firstly I would like to thank you for electing me to the position of Secretary/Treasurer for 2010 and trust that I can continue the good work of Tony Hind.

There was a fantastic attendance at our AGM held at Hoppers Club on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010 with Vic Pilch foolish enough to renominate for President. We have a good solid Committee for 2010 with some old faces and a few new ones but any additional Committee members will be made most welcome.

The Veterans Welfare & Services Centre now has a full complement of Pension and Welfare Officers and is operating effectively. So if you, or a veteran that you know, needs assistance ring us on 9731 1608 for an appointment. Alternatively, just call in any Wednesday for a cup of coffee and a chat.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month luncheon at Werribee RSL continues to be well-attended with 30 – 40 of our Members and their partners mixing with older veterans for some good comradeship. The Committee is currently working on a social program for 2010. The next function is a goodwill visit to Melton Veterans Centre on Thursday 25/3/2010 then there will be a bus trip to the VVAA National Museum in May.

Together with Werribee RSL and their Ladies Auxiliary we sponsored four disadvantaged children to attend the Lord Somers Camp at Portsea last January. One of the children from Thomas Chirnside Primary School sent a beautiful letter thanking us for the opportunity to attend the Camp and saying what a wonderful time they had.

Talking about Thomas Chirnside P.S., many of you will be aware that some of our Members participate with the children at their School's ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorative services. If you are interested in joining the children on **Friday 23/4/2010** at the School for their ANZAC service please contact me.

As in past years we will continue to rotate our monthly Committee meetings at the various RSL's in the Western suburbs. This process has resulted in an improvement in our profile and increased membership. Talking about membership, there are still some who haven't renewed their membership for 2010 that was due in January.

John Mines who has been appointed our Merchandising Officer is currently considering the range of merchandise we will be having available for sale. Committee is also considering the range of badges and other merchandise that we will be selling during VV Badge Week 2010.

On 19/2/2010 five of our Members volunteered to assist the Darwin Defenders Association at the commemorative service at the Shrine to remember the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin (see photos attached).

Finally, Vic Pilch, Tony Hind and I attended the VVAA AGM and State Council Meeting at Bendigo on 27/2/2010 representing our Sub Branch. A number of important national and state issues were addressed at those meetings.

Ray Matthew  
Secretary/Treasurer  
VVAA Melbourne West Sub-Branch

From Pension Officer Alan Shanahan:



February has been our first month back after the Xmas/New Year break, has been very busy with more Veterans being aware that we are back in business.

Some seven (7) completed claims have been submitted to DVA for assessment.

Five (5) determinations have come back with some excellent results achieved. All our Veterans have been very pleased with the results.

I am in the process of completing a further four (4) claims, as it looks like 2010 is shaping up to be a very busy year.

*Alan L. Shanahan*

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Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mailing List

VA013

Saturday 20 March 2010

**VETERAN PENSION RATES TO INCREASE**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin said more than 356,000 veterans, war widows and widowers and their dependents will be receiving increases in their pensions and other income support payments from today, through indexation.

Mr Griffin said the Government's pension increases in September and fairer indexation system is delivering a well-deserved boost to those in the veteran community who are reliant on income support pensions.

"Today's increase sees single service pensioners receive an extra \$29.20 a fortnight. This, combined with the Government's pension increases in September, has increased their pensions by around \$100 per fortnight, bringing their pension to \$701.10.

"Couples on the service pension now receive an extra \$44 a fortnight, bringing their combined pension to \$1057.

"Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pensioners receive an extra \$47.20 and will now receive \$1069.30 a fortnight.

"Single TPI pensioners who also receive maximum rate income support pensions will receive \$1770.40 a fortnight or \$2126.30 for a couple a fortnight. This is an increase of \$76.40 for singles and \$91.20 for a couple.

The new pension rates are effective from today, paid from pension payday on 25 March 2010.

Pensions are indexed on 20 March and 20 September each year.

Pensions are indexed twice a year to the highest of three measures: the consumer price index (CPI), the pensioner living cost index, and growth in male total average weekly earnings (MTAWE). The Government's Pension Reforms increased the effective benchmark for singles from 25 per cent to 27.7 per cent of MTAWE.

The pension increases have been driven by an effective 4.6 per cent increase in the male total average weekly earnings while the cost of living has only risen by 1.5 per cent.

*Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living*

**Deeming rate changes**

As the economy recovers from the global economic crisis, rates of return on investments are also beginning to increase.

As a result, the deeming rates, which are used to assess income from a range of financial investments held by pensioners and other income support recipients, will also increase on 20 March from the record low levels during the global economic crisis.

The lower deeming rate will increase from two per cent to three per cent for financial investments up to \$42,000 for single pensioners or \$70,000 for a couple.

The deeming rate will increase from three per cent to four and a half per cent for balances over these amounts.

**-  
New rates**

Service pension	Old rate	Rate as of 20 March	Increase
<b>Single person</b>	<b>\$671.90</b>	\$701.10	<b>\$29.20</b>
<b>Couples (each)</b>	<b>\$506.50</b>	\$528.50	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>Couples (combined)</b>	<b>\$1013.00</b>	\$1057.00	<b>\$44.00</b>
War widow's pension	<b>\$679.00</b>	\$709.60	<b>\$30.60</b>
Income support supplement	<b>\$202.50</b>	\$211.90	<b>\$9.40</b>
Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (Special Rate Pensioners)	<b>\$1022.10</b>	\$1069.30	<b>\$47.20</b>
<b>Intermediate rate disability pension</b>	\$693.50	\$725.50	<b>\$32.00</b>
<b>Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA)</b>	<b>\$564.10</b>	\$590.20	<b>\$26.10</b>
<b>100 per cent disability pension</b>	<b>\$363.10</b>	\$379.90	<b>\$16.80</b>
<b>10 per cent disability pension</b>	<b>\$36.31</b>	\$37.99	<b>\$1.68</b>
<b>Wholly dependent partners death benefit (weekly)</b>	<b>\$307.90</b>	\$322.10	<b>\$14.20</b>

For inquiries on pensions please contact DVA on 133 254.

*Media inquiries only: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109*

**LEMON PICKER**

**A man applying for a job at a Mildura lemon grove seemed to be far too qualified for the job.**

**The foreman frowned and said, "I have to ask you this; have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"**

**He replied: "I've been divorced three times, bought a Nissan Patrol, voted for Kevin Rudd and I barrack for St Kilda."**



From: Bob Elworthy, President, Victorian State Branch, (VVAA)

To: Sub-Branch Presidents

I seeking input from members about what activities might be appropriate for this year in order to recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State Branch.

The following activities have been suggested:

- **Plaque Unveiling:** Plaque acknowledging the 25 years of service to the Veteran community. It is suggested that this plaque be located at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum and be unveiled at the Museum May Day either 23 or 30 May 2010. Invite VVAA National council members.
- **Focus at VV Day Ceremony 18 August:** Have a specific focus on the anniversary at the VV Day ceremony at the Shrine-encourage all sub-branches to attend, invite VVAA National Council members.
- **Social Activities:** A dinner dance, date/location TBA. An informal BBQ or gathering, date/location TBA.
- **Reception:** At ANZAC House, later in the year. All former Presidents and Life members invited to attend.
- **Special Edition of FSB Vic:** Focus on the history of the Branch.

**Actions:**

- You are requested to circulate this information to members and seek their input into what, if any special activities should be conducted this year to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- I am very keen to see the plaque unveiling at the Museum go ahead, as this will provide a lasting reminder of the existence of and the service provided by the state branch. Suggestions of other activities or opinion on those suggested above are sought by the end of March.
- In relation to the proposal for a special edition of FSB Vic, I ask that each sub-branch do a bit of research on their own history and prepare a short (say one page max.) potted history of their existence. Of interest would be date sub-branch formed, inaugural president, any special activities undertaken, special relationships with other organisations, members who have received honours and awards, an exterior building photograph of the sub-branch meeting place and interior shot of any special space etc.

Regards, and thanks,

Bob Elworthy

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Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mailing List

VA005

Thursday, 18 February 2010

## **RED TAPE CUT FOR VETERANS AND ADF PERSONNEL**

The red tape facing Australia's most disabled ex-serving personnel accessing income support has been cut in new changes announced today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin.

Minister Griffin said that from March 2010, veteran pensioners assessed as Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) would be exempt from Centrelink medical reviews to access a Disability Support Pension.

"Since coming to Government we have sought to reduce the barriers facing veterans and injured ex-serving personnel seeking compensation and income support," the Minister said.

*Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living*

“We established an Interdepartmental Working Group to simplify the bureaucratic maze facing veterans and ex-serving personnel, making it easier for them to access their entitlements and streamlining arrangements across agencies.

“Today’s announcement immediately assists around 1100 veterans on a Centrelink Disability Support Pension and has the potential to benefit many more into the future.

“Currently TPI pensioners undergo repeated Job Capacity Assessments to access and retain their Disability Support Pension. Our TPI pensioners have already been through a rigorous assessment process to access their DVA benefits so making them go through a similar process to access Centrelink benefits is unreasonable.”

Today’s announcement builds on a range of initiatives introduced since the election, including expanding acceptance the ADF Identification Card as Proof of Identity by more government agencies and compiling the ADF Transition Handbook, which lists all interdepartmental benefits and support services available to separating ADF members.

DVA and Centrelink are also sharing data to help reduce the risk of overpayments for the more than 17,500 pensioners on both DVA and Centrelink payments.

Mr Griffin said the inter-agency co-operation under this Government was creating smarter ways to deliver “whole-of-government” services.

“I am pleased with our progress to date but more will be done in our efforts to support our veterans and defence personnel,” Mr Griffin said.

**Media inquiries: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109**

The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **1800 011 046**.

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## **MATES Report Jan 2010**

The MATES committee has now issued module 21.

This module, **About Gout**, will be mailed early in 2010 to identified Veteran patients who have been dispensed, under the RPBS, allopurinol or colchicine between 01 May and 31 Aug 2009.

We also looked at those Veterans who had been dispensed an oral corticosteroid or a non steroidal anti-inflammatory medication during the same period receiving the same mail out.

Modules 22, 23 and 24 are in the development or testing stage for release this year.

We can now report some outcomes based data flowing from the programme.

A tangible result of the Home Medicines Review (HMR) scheme instituted by the MATES programme shows Veterans identified as at risk of heart failure can look forward to a greater time between hospital admissions of some seven months.

A similarly satisfactory result was obtained for patients with diabetes and at high risk of heart failure being prescribed non steroidal anti-inflammatory medications.

Those at risk of heart failure and being prescribed beta blockers saw a 20% reduction in mean time between hospital admissions.

Results are now coming in for those other than cardiac patients prescribed non steroidal anti-inflammatories and for those prescribed anti-depressants. We expect these to be available for the next report.

Patients suffering respiratory infections are similarly benefiting from reduced mean times between hospital admissions especially for pneumonia.

With dementia patients, the results showed a reduction in strokes suffered, a number of premature deaths avoided, fewer large bone (especially hip) fractures and fewer hospitalisations for pneumonia. Warfarin users accessing and using MATES information have significantly fewer hospital admissions for bleeds. This resulted in a programme for every LMO prescribing and every pharmacist dispensing Warfarin under the RPBS being sent the appropriate therapeutic brief module.

***Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living***

While every Veteran being prescribed Warfarin under RPBS has been mailed a Warfarin module, less than 5% of those ordered or received a HMR. A module specifically to address this problem is “on the radar”.

MATES data shows however that ideally HMR s need to be done 6 monthly. MATES is also working with DVA to streamline the ordering process for a HMR.

All of the measured results in this report are flowing from improved knowledge of medicine management through LMO, pharmacist and Veteran patient and carer education and HMR s generated by the MATES programme.

A side issue but an important one nonetheless, is the potential flow on effect of MATES. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing is now looking at adopting a HMR programme using MATES as a model. This means our older family members, neighbours and friends outside the Veteran community can benefit from the MATES programme.

Pete Ryan  
VVAA Representative MATES programme

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## Only a Farm Kid...

When you're from the country ~ your perception is a little different.

An Alberta farmer in his pickup, drove to a neighbour's, and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door

"Is your Dad home?"

"No sir, he isn't; he went to town."

"Well, is your Mother here?"

"No sir, she went to town with Dad."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No sir, He went with Mom and Dad."

The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to himself.

"Is there anything I can do for you? I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give dad a message."

"Well," said the rancher uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Suzie, pregnant."

The boy thought for a moment. "You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bull and \$50 for the hog, but I don't know how much he charges for Howard."

Could you please post the following.

Barry Kevin Anderson, R59755, AB/CK, H.M.A.S SYDNEY 1965 - 1967 Vietnam & FESR Veteran  
aged 73, passed away after a long illness, midnight 31/1/2009.

Condolences to Barbara & family

Funeral details will be posted when known.

Regards

David Dwyer  
Hon Sec  
H.M.A.S. SYDNEY & VLSVA VICTORIA



**1 Melb West Volunteers - Darwin Defenders Day – L to R – Bruce Hicks, Vic Pilch, Brendan Lynch, Bogie Knight.**



2 Darwin Defenders 2010

**From:** [DVA e-News](#)  
**To:** [e-news@dvalists.aaa.net.au](mailto:e-news@dvalists.aaa.net.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 5:41 PM  
**Subject:** DVA e-News - Issue 1, 2010 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



**Issue - 1 - 2010**

**In this issue:**

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- New interpretive experience for the Western Front
- Fromelles reinterment begins at new cemetery
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- New supplier arrangements for continence products
- New DVA Factsheets
- Publications
- Media releases

*Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living*

### **New service for Gallipoli visitors**

Australians planning to travel to Gallipoli for Anzac Day in 2010 will benefit from a new online service being trialled this year for the first time.

Visitors can now register at [www.dva.gov.au/anzac](http://www.dva.gov.au/anzac) to receive useful information on what to expect on the day, how to prepare and what to wear.

Registering is not mandatory, but by being fully prepared, visitors can ensure they get the most out of this once in a lifetime experience.

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### **New interpretive experience for the Western Front**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin was in France recently to announce plans for a new interpretive centre on the Western Front as part of the Australian Government's \$10 million Western Front Interpretive Trail.

Minister Griffin said a new museum and commemorative facilities at Mont St Quentin and plans for other interpretive facilities on the Western Front were on track and would provide more opportunities for visitors to learn about Australian service on the Western Front.

For more information access the [Minister's media release](#) (PDF 42 Kb) or the [Office of Australian War Graves website](#).

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### **Fromelles reinterment begins at new cemetery**

The first of the 250 soldiers recovered from the Fromelles mass grave site was reinterred at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's new military cemetery in Fromelles, France on 30 January 2010.

Representing the Australian Government, Minister Griffin said the Battle of Fromelles was the bloodiest 24 hours in Australian military history.

Remaining reburials took place in the following weeks with full military honours and are almost complete with the final burial to take place on 19 July 2010. For more information visit the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission website](#).

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### **Next round of BEST grants open**

Ex-service organisations (ESOs) can now apply for funding for 2010–11 through the next round of the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants program.

Funding is available to help ESOs provide pension and welfare services to members of the veteran and ex-service community.

Applications are open until 19 March. More information and application forms are available at [www.dva.gov.au/grants](http://www.dva.gov.au/grants)

The Department is currently undertaking a review of DVA-funded ESO Advocacy and Welfare Services, including the BEST program. This review is expected to conclude later this year.

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### **Cancer care without claim**

Many veterans may not be aware that DVA provides treatment for some conditions, including cancer, without an accepted claim for a service-related disability.

This non-liability health care does require a request to be made of DVA, supported by evidence from your doctor, however it does not need DVA to accept the cancer as being caused by service.

[Factsheet HSV66](#) provides more details. For information on how to reduce your risk of cancer visit the [DVA website](#).

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### **New supplier arrangements for continence products**

Following the outcome of a recent tender process, eligible members of the veteran community can now access continence products from one of two suppliers: 'Intouch' or 'Independence Australia'.

While there will be no change to current arrangements for those already receiving products from either of these companies, arrangements will change for eligible persons in WA who receive their products from "Surgical House".

DVA will be writing to affected clients to advise how and when these changes will occur.

For more information visit the [DVA website](#).

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### **New DVA Factsheets**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs online Factsheet portal is a one-stop-shop for detailed information on benefits and services available to DVA clients.

Transition ready reckoners for those affected by the Harmer Pension changes in September 2009, dates for pension paydays and allowances, overview of cards available to veterans and their dependents and concessions available in every state and territory are some of the topics of new Factsheets available now.

To access Factsheets on a range of topics visit the [DVA Factsheets homepage](#).

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### **Publications**

- [The Anzac Walk - Gallipoli in a day](#) (PDF 115 Kb)
- Men's Health Peer Education Program Newsletter – [December 2009](#) (PDF 668 Kb)

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### **Media Releases**

- [Joint media release - First Fromelles soldiers identified](#) (PDF 42Kb)
- [Joint media release - Students honoured in annual Simpson Prize](#) (PDF 36Kb)
- [Joint media release - New coin honours lost soldiers of Fromelles](#) (PDF 33Kb)
- [Walking in the footsteps of our Anzacs](#) (VA011 PDF 53Kb)
- [Joint media release - Identification of Fromelles fallen begins](#) (PDF 35Kb)
- [Anzac day is a time for remembrance, not shopping](#) (VA010 PDF 43Kb)
- [New Veterans' Review Board Head](#) (VA009 PDF 44Kb)
- [Appointment of New Repatriation Commissioner](#) (VA008 PDF 44Kb)

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## **VICTORIAN STATE BRANCH KEY ISSUE MANIFESTO**

*Draft – for discussion at 14 Nov 09 State Council Meeting*

### **Disability Payments Treated the same as Federally Funded Pensions**

Ensure that all disability payments are indexed the same as other Federally funded pensions and are included in pension indexation rounds, and in any other lump sum increases that are applied to other Federally funded pension payments.

### **Disability Payments - Maintenance of Value**

Ensure that the value of all levels of disability payments (general rate increments, intermediate rate, special (TPI) rate and EDA rate) are maintained through the continued application of the most beneficial indexation formula.

### **Veteran Aged Care**

Government act immediately to secure and oversee the provision of aged care facilities for Veterans, and provide assistance to Veterans to meet the cost of obtaining retirement village type accommodation.

### **Mental Health – Condition Acceptance Procedures and Funding**

Provide better and simplified mental health assessment, treatment, and compensation regimes, including improving and simplifying psychiatric condition acceptance procedures.

Provide adequate funding to ensure eligible Veterans have timely access to mental health professionals, mental health programs and facilities, including specialist hospital treatment.

### **Defence Superannuation Fairly Indexed**

Immediately abandon the CPI linked indexation of Defence Superannuation payments and apply future increases based on the greater of the increases of the CPI index or MTAW.

**BEST Funding**

Ensure that adequate BEST funding is provided to meet, at least, all of the costs of operating the Regional Veterans Centre Project in Victoria.

**Pharmaceuticals**

Provide free pharmaceutical services for entitled Veterans

**Alternative Medicine and Health Services**

Provide free access to all alternative medicine and health services for eligible veterans.

**Spouse Carer Gold Card Entitlements**

Extend gold card entitlements to Carer spouses of gold card holders.

**Funeral Benefit**

Funeral benefit currently payable under VEA be increased to the same level available to other Veterans under MRCA.

**Counselling Access**

Remove time limits for access to VVCS Counselling Services for divorcees.

**Role of Carers**

Give proper recognition to the role of Carers of Vietnam Veterans.  
Provide funding and resources to allow access to community health facilities and adequate respite breaks.

**Extend Education Support Criteria**

Extend eligibility criteria for education support to include eligible Veterans on the General or Intermediate Rate of disability compensation.

**Legal Aid**

Provide the same legal aid service level through state legal aid commissions to Vietnam Veterans in all States irrespective of the case.

**Retrospective Awards**

Continue reviews into the lack of bravery awards made to Vietnam Conflict service personnel with the aim of retrospectively making appropriate awards, including allowing foreign awards to be recognized.

Broaden the award of active service medals to include personnel who were engaged in certain logistic support and evacuation operations.

**War Graves**

Maintain as official war graves, the graves of all Vietnam Veterans who died on active service and are buried in Australia, irrespective of whether the funeral was conducted privately or with Military Honours.

**Voluntary Work**

Acknowledge the value of TPI Veterans undertaking voluntary work, and ensure that voluntary work is not considered in relation to any compensation or pension payments.



Certificates of appreciation for those Sub-branches that assisted in one way or another after the Black Saturday Bushfires. Presented at the State Conference at Bendigo.



*Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living*