



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COUNCIL INC.
AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION INC.

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

8 February 2008

Ref: 1-02/08

HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS

The heads of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) and the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) have formalised their long time relationship by signing a "Memorandum of Understanding" focussed on working co-operatively on the delivery of much needed services to the veteran community while urging veterans returning from more recent deployments and their families to avail themselves of the services available through the department of Veteran Affairs and the VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service.

In making this Joint statement both National Presidents Messrs Ron Coxon (VVAA) and Paul Copeland (APPVA) urged any veteran returning home from more recent deployments not to be apprehensive about seeking information or assistance if they experience difficulties in adjusting and fitting back into their community or family environment.

Mr Coxon said the VVAA had fired the first shot which has seen the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service and the subsequent change in name in April 2007 to remove and perceived barrier for access by all veterans and those returning from war & peacekeeping operations.

The VVAA acknowledges and applauds the significant achievements of the APPVA, the quality representation it provides when lobbying government on its members behalf, and the APPVA will continue to support its independent existence as an organisation "looking after their own", he said.

Mr Copeland said, the APPVA acknowledged the efforts of the Vietnam veteran community principally through the VVAA in lobbying the government in establishing the Counselling service, in conducting a number of health studies that have seen the introduction of many programs, services and treatment regimes now available to all veterans and their families.

The APPVA also acknowledge the Department of Veteran Affairs, the VVCS – Veterans and Families Counselling Service for responding positively, and the APPVA is looking forward to working with them to address the needs of those returning from more recent deployments, he said.

Mr Copeland said, our Association appreciates the ongoing support and professional approach of the VVAA and the "Memorandum of Understanding" formalises an existing commitment by the VVAA to make available to us, another level of expertise and experience gained by seasoned campaigners over thirty years in identifying the needs of the Veteran community, and providing policy advice to successive governments to restore a "better quality of life: to veterans and their families.

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