



# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Veteran Affairs Budget 2008/09.**

This budget, within the inflationary constraints, demonstrates the Government's strong commitment to the veteran community. While being financially responsible the overall budget has continued to increase.

The VVAA recognizes and appreciates the commitment toward better mental health for veterans.

Increased funding to Ex-service organizations (ESOs) for the Training Information Program (TIP) and Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) is appreciated. This will allow ESOs to provide better advocacy and welfare services to all veterans gaining their rightful entitlements and through extensive welfare networks and to better assess the wellbeing of all veterans and their families.

Recognition of the effort of carers is also of importance to the VVAA and the bonus outlined in this budget is excellent.

There are some concerns around the changes in eligibility to partner Service Pensions.

A watching brief will continue on the Rudd Government's election platform for veterans keeping in mind that this is a term of government commitment.

In general terms this budget, in the circumstance, would appear well balanced for the veteran community.

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