



## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated in NSW

ARBN 068 073 450

NATIONAL PATRON RADM NEIL RALPH AO DSC RAN

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Ken Foster OAM JP

PO Box 97

MINTO NSW 2566

Mobile 0413 046 077

Email: [vvaa.president.kf@bigpond.com](mailto:vvaa.president.kf@bigpond.com)

### NATIONAL SECRETARY

Graham Anderson OAM

PO Box 97

MINTO NSW 2566

Telephone (02) 4443 2911

Mobile 0400 404 859

Email: [vvaanatsec.ga340@bigpond.com](mailto:vvaanatsec.ga340@bigpond.com)

Web site: <http://www.vvaa.org.au>

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 October 2013

The National President Mr. Ken Foster today expressed his concern and disappointment in regard to the recent outbreak of vandalism, violence and intimidation of war veterans and their property in Townsville North Queensland.

The Vietnam veterans and others in Townsville operate an accommodation and support center in Townsville known as Zak's place where war veterans are provided short term accommodation and support.

In recent times a section of the local community have been attacking the center with vehicles being stolen and vandalized, buildings damaged and war veteran's threatened with violence.

At a time when the Australian community is preparing to honour and commemorate the sacrifices of our World War One veterans it is disappointing to hear the war veterans from other conflicts are treated with such disrespect.

Mr. Foster said "I would call on the local government and law enforcement agencies in Townsville to protect these vulnerable veterans that in the future may be as respected as the veterans of earlier conflicts.

I would further call on the Local government and possibly the Queensland government to assist the war veterans of Townsville to repair and secure their buildings rather than have the scant resources of the veteran community that are earmarked for welfare and pension support of veterans having to be used for building repairs and security.

We would also expect the local law enforcement authority to apply some vigor to the apprehension and punishment of those responsible for these acts."

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

**"HONOUR THE DEAD.... But Fight Like Hell for the Living".**