



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Vietnam Mortality and Cancer Veterans Incidence Studies 2005.

The National President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia in response to the above studies had this to say.

The detrimental effect of service in Vietnam is highlighted in these studies using the National Servicemen who went to Vietnam and those who did not. This demonstrates the effects of service on only those who were fit for military service.

Of these groups the finding that, those who served in Vietnam have 23% higher mortality rate and 14% elevated rate of cancer incidence compared to those who did not serve in Vietnam, is of great concern. Association of many of the cancers with substance abuse also emphasizes the relationship to mental health of the veterans that must be considered.

Findings on potable water are of some concern. This association has still a concern with the fact that Ferric Chloride was used to descale desalination plants for nine years and have at this time not had any response to the cacogenic effect of this chemical.

Issues raised in these studies must now be acted on. Further to this again the impact of the veterans health on his family's health is now in question and should also be studied by the Government, using the these study groups.

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia look forward to some action in relation to all matters raised.

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National President

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