

# V.V.A.A. National Presidents Notes

## September 2015

The Advocacy Training and Development Program Blueprint has now been accepted by the Ex-Service Round Table (ESORT) and details are available on the DVA web site

Nominations from ex-service organisation for positions on the Strategic Governance Board and Capability Framework Management Group have been received and passed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Minister for Veterans Affairs has subsequently accepted the blueprint and appointed four ex service representatives to the Strategic Governance Board, details of these appointments have been distributed separately.

The first meeting of the Strategic Governance Board is planned for early October 2015.

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I have completed, and lodged, a submission with a senate enquiry related to the adoption of single appeals pathway under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) that was delayed in the senate earlier in the month, a copy has been distributed to states.

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I have completed, and lodged, a submission with a senate enquiry related to the mental health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) serving personnel. Again, a copy has been distributed to states.

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I have received a briefing from Brigadier Chris Appleton CSC (Rtd) of the Australian war Graves Commission related to the repatriation of Australian War dead from Terendak Cemetery in Malaysia and the Kranji war cemetery in Singapore.

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I have completed and lodged the V.V.A.A. response to the Vietnam veteran's family study final report consultation process. A copy has been distributed to states.

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I have forwarded, on behalf of the V.V.A.A a message to the outgoing Minister for Veterans Affairs Senator Ronaldson thanking him for his service to the veteran community, I also sent a message of congratulations to the new minister the Hon Stuart Robert MP on his appointment and requested a meeting with him.

Following a telephone discussion with the new minister on 21 September I had, on 23 September, an opportunity to brief a senior advisor to the minister on our primary concerns and interests, these included;

- The single pathway to advocacy question.
- The advocacy training and development program
- The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Long Tan'
- The repatriation of Vietnam war dead from Malaysia /Singapore
- An invitation for the new minister to visit the October 2015 national Council and meet the executive and delegates.

The VVAA National Secretary, Graham Anderson returned from leave in late September and has resumed his duties

Ken Foster  
National president  
2 October 2015