

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Partners/Ex Partners

- Secured the additional Carer Bonus for carers of Veterans in receipt of Partners Service Pension, a payment that has now been legislated and is paid yearly;
- Advocated with Family and Community Services to clarify problems partners were encountering when applying for the Carers Allowance;
- Supported the investigation of the deteriorating health of partners and/or carers of veterans via our national health committee;
- We had a member representative on the Vietnam Veterans Family Study (VFS) Consultative Forum;
- Succeeded in our efforts for increased counselling for former partners of ADF personnel to access WVCS up to 5 years after a couple separates or while co-parenting a child under the age of 18.

## Dependants/Families

- We succeeded in having the age limit removed on children of Vietnam Veterans to receive counselling from the Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling Service (VVCS).
- Our Association supported the provision of child care for participants at WVCS Residential Lifestyle Courses.
- Succeeded in our representations that the age limit be removed for all eligible children of past and present veterans to be able to receive counselling through WVCS;
- Our Association compiled and distributed a Children's health questionnaire which assisted the call for a full study on the health of the children of Vietnam Veterans.

## Widows and Widowers

- Our Association alone advocated for the Bereavement Payment paid to the surviving widow/widower to be calculated at the rate the veteran was in receipt of at the time of his/her death;
- Supported the Indexation of the Income Support Supplement (ISS) paid to eligible War Widows/Widowers.
- Had the age limit removed for War Widows/Widowers to apply for the Income Support Supplement (ISS)

## Veterans

- Supported other Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) for the government to recognise the health issues of Aircraft Personnel in relation to the Re-seal, De-seal of the F1-11s;
- Our Association was the catalyst for the production and distribution of a brochure highlighting awareness of the Strongyloides parasite.

## We're working on:-

- Advocating for an increase in the amount of Funeral Benefit paid to eligible recipients under the Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA).
- Negotiating with WVCS to hold more courses for those Carers and Family Members caring for a veteran with PTSD;
- Representing to government the need to negotiate with all states in offering subsidised accommodation to partners/carers when a veteran living in regional Australia is hospitalised far from home;
- Asking that a little used WVCS program available for Vietnam Veterans needing "time out" in accommodation be widened to include not only younger veterans, but also partners and children as well.

**These are but a few of the issues that our Association feels need great improvement; there are many more that need to be addressed and by our vigilance and speaking to partners who bring problems to us, we will endeavour to keep a close watch on any issues that may arise.**