

About Us

History of Achievements of the P.V.A. Australia Inc.

Since our formation in 1999, the P.V.A. National Association and our State Branches in NSW/ACT/NT, QLD, WA, SA, VIC. and TAS. have lobbied the Federal and State Governments of the day to increase the welfare and support of partners and families of both current and former Veterans and Australian Defence Force members.

Over the previous 15 years representatives of our Association both at State and National level have represented partners, widows/ers, War Widows/ers and families at forums and meetings and continue to do so today. Currently all State Branches have a representative on Deputy Commissioner DVA state forums as well as National representation on the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) the National Aged and Community Care Forum (NACCF) and the Female Veterans and Family Forum.

During that time P.V.A. Australia Inc has improved benefits for all of the above in the following areas:

- The Bereavement Payment calculated at the rate the veteran was in receipt of at the time of his/her death.
- 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)
- We succeeded in having the age limit removed for 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 VVCS Residential Lifestyle Courses.
- P.V.A. 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.
- 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 (VVFS) Consultative Forum.
- 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.
- 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 VVCS.

We're working on:-

- Advocating for an increase in the amount of Funeral Benefit paid to eligible recipients under the Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA).
- Lobbying for separated/divorced partners to receive counselling for an unlimited period of time; currently a limit of 5 sessions is offered.
- Negotiating with VVCS 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 VVCS program available for Vietnam Veterans needing "time out" in accommodation be widened to include not only younger veterans but partners and children as well.
- Our association believes that the provision of child care should be made available for young partners who are mums visiting the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS). Lack of childcare may dissuade a young partner from seeking early advice and intervention as her veteran husband's PTSD begins to affect the family.

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.