

Veteran's Compensation and Rehabilitation Inquiry

A brief comment

Keith Hemburrow
National Service Vietnam Veteran.

A short note to raise several issues that may be considered by the Commission.

I am hoping that the following statements will have some influence on the manner in which the report is written.

1. Along with other veterans, I and my family are really frustrated with our Government and the Department of Veteran Affairs. There has been numerous studies undertaken with the intent of looking after veterans. Not much has really been achieved. The current veterans are still getting the "short shift" as we did, on our return. Plenty of talk. No action. Other groups, not Government, are taking the action in supporting us, recognising the difficulties that Veterans have to manage.
2. The Government is providing multi millions of dollars to recent immigrants and their families as well as to others who reside overseas or study here in Australia whilst Veterans and their families who gave service supporting the policies of the Government of the day are supplied platitudes by the barrow load.
3. When action is taken as a result of these studies, the action is often trivial, supported by more platitudes and statements of some long term future implementation. Lets face it, the Governments main purpose is to keep the costs and support of ex-service people to a minimum and this study, to me once more reinforces that aspect. I worry that it is just a feel good political setup to make those in power look good.
4. Without the support of my wife, I have no doubt my life would not be. I have yet to see any recognition by the Government of the service our partners, spouses etc. provide. All these years past, my wife has kept me going as a reasonable productive member of society. It should be, or could be recognised. This should be rewarded by providing healthcare support as per the services rendered by "the gold card". Veterans on a pension cannot afford the cost of private healthcare.

I thank you and hope that some positive action is quickly implemented in support of all Veterans.