

## Report from COVVHS, February 2008

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season.

Requests for Expressions of Interest for the DVA intergenerational family study of veteran's families closed on Thursday 13 December 2007. Respondents are due to be notified by February 2008.

It is now February 2008, and we hope that the DVA/CMVH is working hard evaluating the responses to obtain the supplier(s) for a world first study into the health of Veterans families.

2008 is the year of deliverance; the year when veterans will hopefully obtain some insight into health issues affecting their families.

The new Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Mr. Alan Griffin, called his first meeting regarding the health study on the 14th December. The minister consulted major ex-service organizations with a view to investigation options for an ongoing consultative process during the research.

Discussions were held as to the makeup of the Consultative Forum, and how members of the veteran community could be included. It was agreed that those members chosen, should contribute and not be token appointees. An interesting point brought up by Professor Peach was that the members of this Consultative forum be given lessons on the role of consultative forum representatives.... An excellent idea, most felt.

Within a short space of time since the Election, Mr. Griffin has been extremely pro active with regard to all aspects of the health study and its rapid progression. Those who attended the meetings with Alan Griffin were impressed with his approach, and look forward to the next meeting. The Minister expressed a desire to have another meeting with stakeholder groups, within the first 2/3 months of 2008.

Pro active ex service organizations see this Research as an extremely important step forward for veterans children and for the younger veteran community.

COVVHS would like to express their gratitude to the Minister for Veteran Affairs, Alan Griffin, for his continued support for the study of the health of sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans; and, the impending series of studies. These should give an in depth insight into both the physical and mental health of our families, including social issues and other issues that have a negative impact on lives in some families.

Check our website for regularly for updates and research information!!

David Matheson, President, COVVHS

Please contact COVVHS to obtain more information, or follow the  
Reports link to read more about the Study.