

Proposed Public Awareness Meeting

- Date : Tuesday 8th October 2002
- Time : 7:30 pm
- Venue : RSL, Lyons Street South, Ballarat
- Pre meeting Publicity :
 - Advertisements in Ballarat Courier Newspaper on Sat 14 Sept 2002 and Tues 1 Oct 2002.
 - Notice in Community Section of Ballarat News.
 - Notice in each edition of VVAA Ballarat Sub Branch Newsletter – Inform.
 - Flyer to go out with the letters about Badge Week.
- Displays at Meeting :
 - Copies of Newspaper Articles
 - Stories of Families with unwell sons and daughters
 - Map of Vietnam showing herbicide sprayed areas
- Objectives of the Meeting :
 - Raise awareness of people to the extent of the chronic ill health of VV sons and daughters;
 - Instigate a study to further identify the extent of the ill health in VV sons and daughters, starting in the Ballarat area;
 - Obtain more substantial factual and scientific information to enable us to convince politicians of the ill health of VV children.

Casual, civilised, non-confrontational, and non-political presentation which will encourage people to think about the ill health of veterans sons and daughters.
- Chairperson : Colonel (Retired) Ed. Davis.M.B.B.S., M.B.A.
- Pastoral Care & Advice : Don Matthews
- D.V.A. Representative Marita Ryan DVA
- Chairperson Ed Davis (5 mins)
 - Welcome and outline of evening's presentations.
 - VVAA set up to address issues relating to veterans and their families.
 - Due to concerns about the ill health of many veterans children, which first became know to many in the Veteran community with the Morbidity study, and now it is apparent that since that time a significant number of our sons and daughter's conditions have become worse and others have since been diagnosed with serious physical and mental health conditions.
 - Believe that it is important to inform people of the circumstances.
 - Many veterans families have not made a connection between their families ill health and the fathers / mothers exposure to herbicides.
 - We ask you to consider the information presented and see if you can identify with these circumstances. We ask you to think about the issues, and hope to involve the Government to investigate the ill health of veterans children.

- Presenter 1 :
Sue Parker
(10 mins)
- How we got to be here tonight
 - Actual effect on children :
 - ❑ Still Births & Miscarriages
 - ❑ Structural – Spina Bifida, Cleft palate, extra & missing body parts.
 - ❑ Acute – suicides, wilms tumor, cancers, accidental deaths
 - ❑ Chronic - chronic ill health devastating our sons & daughters lives; multiple chemical sensitivity.
- Presenter 3 :
Geoff Parker
(15 mins)
- Link Between Dioxin Exposure and Children’s Illnesses.
 - Areas Sprayed in Vietnam.
 - Chemicals / herbicides used.
 - Years where soldiers were most affected.
 - Link between AO and Dioxin
 - Genes
 - Fathers exposure & effect on children
 - Trouble getting the Govt to accept.
 - Further Evidence of problems
 - High profile supporter
- Presenter 5 :
David Hyatt
Psychologist, VVCS
(12 mins)
- Speaking about the psychological impact this will have on veterans and their children.
- Presenter 6 :
Bob Harrison
(10 mins)
- Psychological counseling by VVCS provides an effective service but is not meeting all the needs of VV children, because apart from the psychological conditions they also have psychiatric and physical illness which also need treating.
 - Chronic lifetime illnesses in children are much higher than the normal population, and children need to be treated as war wounded.
 - Becoming evident as VV children become mature adults, in their mid to late 20’s.
 - Mental or psychiatric illness often takes a long time to become evident and become diagnosed by the medical profession. Initially they may be seen as anxiety, attention deficit disorder, or similar. Many local children are just being diagnosed in their late 20’s with Schizophrenia or Bi Polar Disorder.
 - When young a significant number have died through car accidents and suicide. Many of these may have had psychiatric illnesses.
- Presenter 7 :
Sue Parker.
(5 mins)
- Speaking about other publicity,
- Division of GP’s.
 - Local member.
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Discussion
Chairperson
(20 mins)

Opportunity for attendees to provide comment and ideas on how to progress our cause to assist the sons and daughters of veterans. Speakers available to answer questions.

Conclusion
Chairperson
Ed Davis
(5 mins)

- Summarise discussion;
- Want enough signatures from this evening to demonstrate to our local Member of Parliament that issue of VV children's ill health warrants further investigation.
- Want a national survey carried out to identify the health status of VV children.
- If it is evident, that there is a higher incidence of chronic ill health in our children, that the Govt supports them with medical care.
- Thanks for your attendance
- Stay for supper.

Light Supper

Total Time of Speakers (92 mins or 1 hours 32 mins)