

Department of Veterans' Affairs

ESO Round Table

Summary of Meeting – 27 August 2015

The Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Round Table met for the 31st time in Canberra on 27 August 2015.

The Chair welcomed Mr James Wain to the ESO Round Table as the newly-elected National President of the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia.

The Chair made special mention of Mr Tony Mogridge, who was leaving the position of National President of TPI Federation Australia. The members joined the Chair in thanking Mr Mogridge for his services to the ESO Round Table and wishing him all the best for his future endeavours.

Terendak Repatriation

Members were provided with an update on the offer of repatriation to the families of all 35 Australians in the Terendak Military Cemetery.

Vietnam Veterans Family Study Consultation

The forum was provided with the final feedback paper on the Vietnam Veterans Family Study.

Mental Health Update

Members were provided with an update on mental and social health activities, including:

- the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council;
- the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme;
- veteran homelessness and incarceration; and
- online mental health resources.

Amendments to the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*

Members were advised of proposed changes to the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) that would separate compensation coverage for current and former Australian Defence Force members from other Commonwealth (civilian) employees.

DVA's Response to the *Processes to Support Victims of Abuse in Defence Report*

Members were advised of the Departmental response to the *Processes to Support Victims of Abuse in Defence Report*.

Hearing Services for DVA Clients

A presentation on hearing issues was provided by several officials from the Office of Hearing Services (OHS). Members were advised that DVA clients can access hearing services through the programme administered by OHS, the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP), or both, and that since 2013 DVA clients under the SRCA are also covered under this arrangement through the provision of a white card.

Carers Matters

The forum heard a presentation from several officials from the Department of Social Services regarding carers matters.

Member Submissions

Member submissions that were discussed included veteran homelessness, clarification of pension indexation procedures, Grants-in-Aid and Classes of TPI.

The next full meeting of the ESO Round Table is 12 November 2015.