

# DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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### Vietnam Veteran Family Study

The National President of the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), David Jamison, welcomed last week's announcement by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Billson, of a series of health studies and research into the impact of war service on the health and welfare of families of Vietnam veterans, particularly their children.

The National President also welcomed today's advice from the veterans whose campaigning has led to the study that, although they have some questions regarding the research Protocol, they believe that those questions can be addressed at the consultative forum level before each stage of the research.

David said that DFWA appreciated the complexity of this particular study but expressed concern that the last aspects of the work would not be completed until 2016, with any Government responses to those aspects presumably to occur after further consideration. By that stage, many of the "children" of Vietnam veterans would be over 40 years old.

He said that DFWA hopes that the Government will look at undertaking similar in-depth family surveys and research to accompany every overseas defence deployment. That might permit more expeditious responses by Governments to all the consequences for service personnel and their families of national foreign policy decisions.

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