

# south east asian treaty organisation (seato) march 2002 nurse update

## The Full Circle

Remember the independent review conducted by Justice Mohr into possible anomalies in service entitlements in respect of South-East Asian Service!!

Remember the recommendation arising from that review:

**"It is recommended that Australian Civilian Surgical and Medical Teams operating in Vietnam during the Vietnam War be deemed as performing qualifying service for repatriation benefits."**

We certainly will not forget the distressing refusal of the Government to implement that recommendation.



Two years after the Mohr Review the Government has established yet another review of veterans' entitlements. On the 8th February 2002, the Minister, Danna Vale announced an independent review to be conducted by a Committee comprising the Hon Justice John Clarke QC (Chairman) and Air Marshall Douglas Riding AO DFC and Dr David Rosalky.

The Terms of Reference are set out as follows:

"The Government is committed to providing fair, consistent and appropriate benefits to Australia's veterans, against this background, the Committee will review and make recommendations on:

1. the current policy relating to eligibility for access to Veterans Entitlements Act benefits and Qualifying Service under the Veterans Entitlements Act; and
2. the benefits available to disability compensation pensioners under the Veterans Entitlements Act ."

The ANF welcomes the opportunity to put our position yet again to the Government. The Committee is due to report by November 2002.

The ANF and Civilian Nurses, Australian Surgical Teams, Vietnam will make a joint submission to the Review on behalf of civilian nurses. We will provide further information concerning the process and timeframe as soon as we have these details.

If you have any comments or wish to contribute to the submission please contact Debbie Richards at the ANF Federal Office on 03 9639 5211 or email [debbie@anf.org.au](mailto:debbie@anf.org.au)

## COMCARE CLAIMS

While the battle continues, it is important that members of surgical and medical teams who were injured or who are suffering an illness as a result of their service in Vietnam, make a claim under COMCARE to receive assistance currently available under that scheme.

A number of nurses have made claims and are progressing through the system with the assistance of the ANF and Greg Isolani, a solicitor who has been assisting the ANF in relation to this issue.

Please contact Debbie Richards if you require further information or assistance in relation to this matter.