



Australian Government

Defence Honours & Awards Tribunal

Inquiry into the Eligibility of Royal Australian Air Force Personnel, serving in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975, for the Vietnam Medal

Terms of Reference

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal shall inquire into and report on the eligibility of Royal Australian Air Force personnel serving in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975 (including the evacuation of the Australian Embassy in Saigon) to receive the Vietnam Medal for that service.

In conducting its inquiry the Tribunal shall:

- (a) have regard to the terms and objective of the Royal Warrant for the Vietnam Medal dated 8 June 1968 and the terms of any other relevant Award or Medal (noting that the Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp "Vietnam" has already been awarded for this service);
- (b) have regard to current policy that service rendered in Vietnam after 27 January 1973 does not constitute qualifying service for the Vietnam Medal;
- (c) examine relevant material and make findings in regard to the service provided by the Royal Australian Air Force personnel in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975 and the circumstances in which it was provided;
- (d) consider in light of the abovementioned examination and findings whether the current policy referred to in (b) above is reflective of the intent or terms of the abovementioned Royal Warrant for the Vietnam Medal; and
- (e) make recommendations in regard to its findings as to the eligibility of Royal Australian Air Force personnel serving in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975 for the Vietnam Medal.

The Tribunal is to determine its own procedures, in accordance with the general principles of procedural fairness, when conducting its inquiry as set out in these Terms of Reference. In this regard, the Tribunal may interview such persons as it considers appropriate and consider material provided to it that is relevant to these terms of reference.

The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support on its findings and recommendations that arise from the inquiry. In making its findings and formulating its recommendations the Tribunal is to arrive at a fair and sustainable response to current and future claims for recognition and also maintain the integrity of the Australian honours system and identify any consequential impact any finding or recommendation may have on that system.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on Monday 1 June 2009.