
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal completes public hearings

27 July 2012

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, has advised that public hearings for the Inquiry into *Unresolved Recognition for Past Acts of Naval and Military Gallantry and Valour* are now complete.

"Initiated by this Government, these public hearings have attracted the nation's interest, with the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal receiving 136 submissions and hearing from 72 witnesses around the country," Senator Feeney said.

"In relation to the 13 names referred to it by Government, the Tribunal will now consider what has been put before it and conduct any further research needed before reporting to me later this year.

"In addition, the Tribunal has received 114 submissions relating to about 75 other individuals which it will refer to Government to determine whether they should be reviewed in detail."

In addition to assessing claims relating to individuals, the Tribunal will also report to Government on its conclusions on the rules, practices and procedures applying to both the Imperial and Australian Honours systems.

This will include re-visiting the particular policies and approaches followed in considering the actions of prisoners of war during the period up until Australia ceased making recommendations for Imperial gallantry awards in 1992.

The Inquiry held public hearings in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Launceston.

It heard from a wide range of witnesses including family members, historians, academics, Defence and ex service organisations.

The Inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at:

www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

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