



## **Australian Government**

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### **Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal**

## **INQUIRY INTO ELIGIBILITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) is directed to inquire into and report on eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is classed as a foreign award which was offered to a range of countries (including Australia, New Zealand and the United States) that supported the Government of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Australia accepted the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and has been issuing it to members of the Australian Defence forces and accredited philanthropic organisations that it has assessed as eligible ever since.

Eligibility criteria for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal were determined by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Specifically, the Tribunal is directed to inquire and report on:

- application of the eligibility criteria for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal over time;
- unresolved issues with the application of those criteria; and
- how any future claims for this award should be administered.

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.

The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence on the findings and recommendations that arise from the Inquiry.

In making its findings and formulating its recommendations the Tribunal is required to maintain the integrity of the Australian honours and awards system and identify any consequential impact that any finding or recommendation may have on that system.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on Friday 31 May 2013.