

VVAG - VIETNAM VETERANS ACTION GROUP



From the Desk of the Secretary

24 December 2008

Seasons Greetings to you and your families and may you have a great Xmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

I will be returning to NZ for about a week at the end of January for a presentation to Crown Law and the NZ Government. The proposed discussion with Crown Law is similar to a Waitangi type claim.

I have received the written advice from our Lawyers from the results of the investigation into a possible class action.

It is our intention to use the information to seek a better deal for all Vietnam Veterans and their families. The NZ Government/Crown Law have "Failed in their Duty of Care". They apologised! Now walk the talk!!

I am confident that we can get a better deal including our tax paid back. I have costed out a proposal that will give all Vietnam Veterans and the deceased Veterans families including compound interest on a pro rata basis. ie A Private Soldier who spent 12 months in Vietnam would have paid about \$400 in Tax and at that time that money could have bought 250 cases of beer from the PX today's costs for the same beer would cost about \$14,000. I have used the figure of \$10,000 across the board for 12 months TOD. ALL Deceased Veterans families to date including the War victims for instance to receive \$10,000. Anyone injured and unable to return to the theatre of War to receive \$10,000 all other personnel pro rata the time that they served.

This measure alone would go a long way in healing one of the many injustices of the past. The cost for this is estimated between \$15,000,00 and \$18,000,000. Should this be accepted ALL persons would need to contact the Tax Office with the claim and details. A statutory claim form could be made available and filled out. This would simplify the process and speed up the payment.

The problems of Dioxin poisoning especially the DNA damage and is proving intergenerational. The unnecessary pain and suffering demands compensation.

Why did the NZ Government allow the manufacture of a herbicide that contained unnecessary amounts of the deadly dioxin TCDD for 17 years after it was banned by the USA in 1970 because of the deadly side effects?? This was in direct breach of a Geneva Convention Act and is technically a War Crime. These are just some of the questions we need answered.

Cheers Bruce Weir Secretary VVAG