



Minister of Defence

24 July 2007

Mr Bruce Weir
PO Box 702
Burleigh Heads
Queensland
AUSTRALIA 4220

Dear Mr Weir

Thank you for your invitation. As you will be aware, however, the needs of the Vietnam veterans' community have been the subject of a long and fully consultative process last year.

The claims put forward by veterans and negotiated by the two elected organisations representing them, EVSA and RSA, were substantially met. An agreement has been signed by both sides in good faith.

This agreement goes beyond what has occurred in the United States and Australia. It represents a package estimated at around \$30 million, but more importantly acknowledges longstanding grievances by Vietnam veterans.

The agreement addresses all nine points, either in full or in part, or in the case of VANZ, is currently subject to a review, which were included in the letter to the Prime Minister of 14 February 2005, signed by 740 veterans and their families.

It is not the intention of the Government to reopen those negotiations. Accordingly, as representatives of one side of the Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed, it would be improper for us to meet with you.

Yours sincerely

Hon Phil Goff
Minister of Defence

Hon Rick Barker
Minister of Veterans Affairs