



# **VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH INCORPORATED**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 19/2011**

### **Definition of 'Welfare'**

#### **Introduction**

1. From time to time members of the VVAA conduct activities in support of veterans who are not in effect welfare activities.
2. The aim of this AI is to alleviate any confusion that may arise in regards to what constitutes 'WELFARE' so far as the State Branch is concerned.

#### **Detail**

3. The welfare aim of the VVAA encompasses all things related to the physical and mental well being of veterans, their dependents and descendants.
4. Enclosed is the State Branch definition of 'welfare' in relation to our organisation. Even this definition is not all-inclusive and there will be legitimate welfare activities that are not covered.
5. Because of the broad spectrum of activities, which could be defined as welfare within the parameters set by our constitution, patriotic fund administrators must confirm with the Trustee (State Council) prior to making any payment from their sub-branch patriotic funds not specified in the definition. This action is necessary to ensure that patriotic funds are used in accordance with the Patriotic Funds Act.

#### **Authority**

**State Council meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.2011**

# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## South Australia Branch Incorporated

### Welfare Definition

'Welfare' encompasses all things relating to the physical and mental well being of veterans, their dependents and descendants.

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) is a not for profit organisation whose sole aim is the welfare of Vietnam veterans, their dependents and their descendants.

**Welfare Officer.** Any member in the position of Welfare Officer, Pension Officer or holding a position on, or seconded to a committee, sub-committee, or elected to office at any of the levels of the Vietnam Veterans Association is a Welfare Officer.

**Information** is at the heart of the VVAA. Knowledge is one of the keys in preventing stress, reducing fear of the unknown and providing welfare support. For example, information about health services, income and pension entitlements, legal rights and entitlements, Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) information including grants and the like.

**Information Sources.** In order to be an effective member of the organisation, members must be prepared to travel to attend scheduled meetings of the VVAA, and to attend courses of instruction in pensions and welfare with various agencies and authorities. They must spend time gathering and disseminating information using telephones and facsimile machines, computers etc. Members may also be called on to address members of other Ex-Service Organisations, and other interested groups for education purposes or to gain public support for the VVAA to facilitate projects or gain assistance.

**Welfare Tasks.** Although the following list *is not* exhaustive, it is designed to display some of the tasks performed by VVAA Welfare Officers:

- \* Assist veterans to gain financial counselling.
- \* Ensure relief from isolation.
- \* Carry out hospital visits.
- \* Liaise with Governments, Hospitals and Health Services, Police etc.
- \* Liaise with Vietnam Veterans Counselling Services (VVCS) and DVA.
- \* Assist grieving survivors on the death of a veteran, partner or child.
- \* In the case of the death of a veteran, assist and advise the spouse, and liaise with Legacy.
- \* Ensure food and/or suitable accommodation.
- \* Remain updated on all matters relating to veteran welfare.
- \* Ensure welfare information is widely disseminated.
- \* Maintain contact with Veterans.