



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2003

### **Veterans' Gold Card Review disappointing - Windsor**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has expressed disappointment at the recommendations about Gold Card eligibility in the Review of Veteran's Entitlements.

The Review was conducted by the Hon John Clarke QC under the auspice of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Danna Vale.

Mr Windsor said he had received many submissions from World War II Veterans who joined the military but did not have to serve in areas where conflict actually occurred.

"It is disappointing that these men and women aren't being recognised by the Government.

They were prepared to defend our shores during a time of crisis.

Now that these people need some help from the Nation they were prepared to die for, they are being ignored.

If we are serious about encouraging young people into the armed forces at a time of world-wide unrest we should display our commitment to those who met the call in the past," Mr Windsor said.

#### **The recommendations of the review relating to the Gold Card are:-**

- 66 The Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions (Gold Card) should not be provided to veterans purely as recognition of service in the Australia armed services.
- 67 The Gold Card should not be extended to further categories of World War II veterans of the Australian armed services; however, should the Government accept the Committee's recommendations in relation to qualifying service for World War II service, veterans of the Australian armed services so gaining qualifying service should be entitled to the Gold Card.
- 68 The Gold Card should not be extended to all veterans of the Australian armed services for service with BCOF in Japan; however, should the Government accept the Committee's recommendations in relation to the classification of certain BCOF service as warlike, veterans of the Australian armed services with this service prior to 1 July 1947 should be entitled to the Gold Card.

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- 69 The Gold Card should not be extended to further categories of post-World War II veterans without qualifying service.
- 70 The VEA should be amended so that there will be no further grants of the Gold Card to post World War II veterans of the Australian armed services at age 70 on the basis of their having rendered qualifying service, unless the veteran satisfies some measure of financial need.
- 71 The Gold Card should not be extended to all widows of veterans: the VEA should continue to provide the Gold Card only to widows eligible for a war or defence widow's pension.
- 72 The VEA should be amended to enable assistance with private health insurance to be provided for the dependent children of veterans entitled to the special rate disability pension who transfer to the proposed new disability pension structure, or of veterans entitled to the extreme disablement adjustment through the provision of a tax free health care allowance, indexed to the Consumer Price Index, if the family takes out private health insurance.
- 73 The Government should examine the needs of war widows and others caring for severely disabled adult orphans of veterans and adequacy of existing support systems to meet those needs.
- 74 The Gold Card should not be extended to all British, Commonwealth and allied veterans and mariners with or without qualifying service.
- 75 Access to the Gold Card should not be extended to civilians who do not qualify as veterans under existing provisions of the VEA.