



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Suite 2, Level 1
307 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1800 66 8855
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

16th May 2003

Veterans' Gold Card misses Budget again

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has again expressed disappointment that Gold Card eligibility for Veteran's Entitlements has not made it into the Federal Government's Budget.

"I am disappointed that a group of ex-service men and women who were prepared to defend our country during World War II have again been overlooked for access to Gold Card benefits in this year's budget.

These people were in the position of defending our Nation's shores and their service should be recognised.

In some instances, these people were injured during training and could not be sent overseas however, they were prepared to go wherever the Government of the day directed and as such should now be eligible for the Gold Card," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that it is the term "qualifying service" that needs redefining to include those people who were actively engaged in the Australian armed forces during World War II whether they saw the enemy or not.

"The definition of 'qualifying service' is the sticking point here and it is obvious to most that there is a need to review this so that those ex service men and women now in need of help can be included.

I will continue to draw this anomaly to the attention of the Government and lobby for the necessary changes so that those deserving veterans who have been overlooked can access the Gold Card benefits and enjoy a better quality of life in their latter years," Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor - Mob 0427 66 8868 or 02 6761 3080