



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Windsor calls for Gold Card help for forgotten Veterans

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will table a Notice of Motion at the next sitting of the Federal Parliament next week aimed at giving veterans of World War II who have up until now missed out on the Gold Card for health services to help them access the benefits available through the Gold Card that they rightly deserve.

The Notice of Motion Mr Windsor will introduce is as follows:

That the House, while acknowledging that progress has been made in improving access to veterans' entitlements

- (1) notes that anomalies remain in respect to eligibility for Gold Card benefits, and**
- (2) calls on the Government to introduce legislation as a matter of urgency to address remaining anomalies, and, in particular, to cover the extension of eligibility for Gold Card benefits to service personnel who were enlisted in the Australian defence forces during World War 2, but, while willing to serve overseas were either kept at home to perform their service in Australia, or , although selected for service overseas, because of injury or other misadventure were not sent in fact sent to serve overseas.**

Mr Windsor praised the efforts of Tamworth veteran, Mr Ken Coulton who has maintained a constant vigil on the matter.

"Mr Coulton has been fighting for a long time to have the Gold Card extended to those World War II Veterans who did not leave our shores to face the enemy but were defending our shores or were injured in preparation to go overseas.

Mr Coulton has been fighting for not only his own needs but for his fellow Veterans who have been overlooked despite the sacrifices that they made to help the war effort.

I have made many representations to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and I hope that with the support of other Members of Parliament that we can rectify the anomaly that exists so that these Veterans can access the support they need and deserve just as they gave their support to their country in being prepared to defend it when they were needed.

If we can't look after those who looked after us all those years ago, how can we expect to attract people to our armed forces now and into the future," Mr Windsor said.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868