



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TONY WINDSOR MP**  
**INDEPENDENT**  
**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND**

Shop 5  
259 Peel Street  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**All Mail:** PO Box 963  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**Ph:** (02) 6761 3080

**Toll Free:** 1300 301 839

**Fax:** (02) 6761 3380

**e-mail:** [Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)

**Web Page:** [www.tonywindsor.com.au](http://www.tonywindsor.com.au)

## Media Release

25 August 2006

### Looking after old soldiers is best way to recruit new

With the Federal Government announcing a recruitment drive to boost numbers in the defence force, Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has renewed his call to look after our old soldiers.

Mr Windsor says that the best way to attract new recruits is to look after our old soldiers after serving their country referring to an impasse with the Government in not providing health Gold Cards and other services to very deserving former members of the defence forces.

“The best way to show new recruits that their service to their country could be a rewarding long term career is to show them how well they will be looked after on completion of their service.

The Federal Government has refused to extend Gold Cards to many servicemen and women who served their country during wartime.

These people were prepared to go wherever they were sent and if need be, put their lives on the line in the defence of our country.

For the Government to now try to boost the numbers in our defence forces, they should clearly demonstrate their commitment to our defence forces by looking after our old soldiers,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has made many representations to the Minister, tabled Notices of Motion in the Federal Parliament and spoken on numerous occasions aimed at giving veterans of World War II access to the Gold Card for health services.

“I remind the Government of the efforts of Tamworth veteran, Mr Ken Coultan who has maintained a constant vigil on this matter.

Mr Coultan 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 Coultan 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.

People like Mr Coultan were part of our ‘defence force’ and were here in Australia to defend our shores and should be treated favourably by a grateful nation.

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

---

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