



NSW State Presidents Report Dec 2016

Since September I have been involved with petitioning the Minister for Veterans Affairs Dan Tehan with the case of a Vietnam veteran that Minister Dutton wants to deport back to New Zealand a country he has not lived in since he was 5 years' old

In the last month, I have been joined by the National President in campaigning on this veteran's behalf.

He is TPI with PTSD and Depression as well as Alcohol Dependency. This Vet was convicted of what the Judge said was the bottom of the crimes range. He has served his 18 months then his 10 Month parole with a Good Behaviour Bond.

Both punishments have been under taken by the Vet in the best way possible. He admitted the crime and showed true remorse per the Judge. For 18 months

He has lived in Australia since his parents migrated out here when he was 5 except for a short period when he went back to do some private schooling. He enlisted in the Army at 17 then discharged 12 months later. He then volunteered for Conscription, went to Vietnam where he was awarded "Mentioned in Dispatches"

Minister Dutton has now had him in Villawood Detention Centre. We have been able to get an extension of time for his solicitors to write his submission until April next year. That means another Christmas in Detention away from his wife and children.

As I wrote to Dan Tehan “Where is the Justice and Compassion” that is supposed to go with the legal system

Other than this case December is full of farewell Christmas parties etc. These are all fine but take up a lot of time that sometimes we don't have to give.

The major happening of course was the sudden passing of Cherryl Mullavey. Tony Mullavey is well known at both state and National levels as he regularly attends the National Conference with his bag of souvenirs that he is trying to sell. Cherryl's Funeral was one of the largest that the St Marys Veteran Centre have run. Cherryl was a long-time supporter and member of the St Marys Vietnam Veterans Wives group.

Cherryl was only 68 the same age as my wife and Tony and Cherryl had hooked up when Cherryl was only 17 the same age as my wife was when we started dating.

Vale Cherryl

You will be missed

Which brings me to the annual wishes. Please all have a Happy and Merry Christmas, but return safely in 2017.

Greg Cant

NSW President

17 Dec. 16