

® **VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

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It is with some regret I write to inform you that effective immediately the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (V.V.A.A.) is withdrawing from the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO).

The National Council of the V.V.A.A. at a council meeting on 10 May 2018 considered the ongoing membership of ADSO and its implications for our organisation.

It was felt that ADSO by its name and perceived objectives is a defence service focused organisation whereas the V.V.A.A. is a veteran and ex-service focused organisation.

In some ways this can create a conflict of interest for the V.V.A.A. in that papers in the past produced by ADSO, and with what we believe was inadequate consultation with member organisations, contains comments which differ from policy objectives that the V.V.A.A. has in place.

It was felt that rather than continue as part of an organisation whose perceived policies and objectives had the potential to compromise our core values and objectives we had to withdraw and concentrate on matters and projects meaningful to our membership.

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“Honour the dead - but fight like hell for the living”

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We are one of the last ex-service organisations that have membership criteria based on a specific war and we have not opened our membership to veterans of other conflicts or areas of military service.

We are proud of our heritage and are not prepared to place our credibility at risk being seen to support projects and areas of concern to veterans of other conflicts or current serving members that in fact we have no opinion on, or a different opinion.

We will continue to support veterans of other conflicts and current serving members of our defence force as we have in the past, but as an independent organisation rather than as part of ADSO.

We ask that you immediately remove the V.V.A.A. logo from the ADSO letterhead and any reference to the V.V.A.A. from any future submissions or papers produced by the ADSO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Foster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Foster OAM JP
National President
14 May 2018