

Who is Involved?

The Department has set up a Family Studies Program Team to manage the Study. A Scientific Advisor from the Australian National University and a Scientific Advisory Committee provide advice to the Team to make sure the Study is grounded in solid science.

A Consultative Forum also advises the Study with members from:

- Australian Veterans & Defence Services Council
- Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
- Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia
- Partners of Veterans Association of Australia
- Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Study
- Australian Federation of Totally & Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women
- Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Association
- Defence Force Welfare Association and
- Community representatives each of whom is the child of a Vietnam veteran.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



VIETNAM VETERANS' FAMILY STUDY

More Information

For information on the

Vietnam Veterans' Family Study:

Call: 1800 502 302 (toll-free Health Study Line)

Email: healthstudy@dva.gov.au

Visit: www.dva.gov.au

For survey only inquiries call: 1800 778 363

(toll-free Survey Support Line) or visit

www.cbr.com.au/dva-family-study.html

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VIETNAM VETERANS' FAMILY STUDY

The Vietnam Veterans' Family Study is assessing how the operational service of Australian Defence Force members affects the physical, mental and social health and welfare of their families.

There is plenty of data showing how operational service affects military personnel. However there is a lack of scientifically rigorous information on how deployments impact on the health and wellbeing of families.

This Study will provide a better understanding of the longer term impact of war service on veterans and their families. It will also identify those negative and positive factors that affect families in the military community and what helps them get through difficult times.

It will provide an important opportunity for Vietnam-era service personnel and their family members to tell how that service has affected their lives. The results will help those in need from that time and also help us to plan the best support for current and future service personnel and their families.

Eligibility

The Study involves:

- Vietnam veterans.
- Military personnel who served between 1962 and 1975 but did not serve in Vietnam.
- Partners, ex-partners, children and stepchildren of military personnel who served between 1962 and 1975, regardless of whether they served in Vietnam.
- Nieces, nephews, siblings and siblings-in-law of Vietnam veterans.

Why include those who did not go to Vietnam?

It is vital to understand the experiences of Vietnam veterans and the possible impact of their service on families. To do this properly and to better understand all effects of service on families, the Study also involves servicemen and women who did not go to Vietnam and their families. By comparing the responses from both groups, we can classify experiences that are common to everyone who served and identify those experiences that originate from operational service.

People who have not received an invitation, including Vietnam veterans, Air Force and Navy personnel, their families and the families of deceased veterans, can still participate, however for scientific reasons their results will be considered separately from those who were randomly selected to participate.

While the responses from those who volunteer to take part will be considered separately from those who have been randomly selected, all responses are important and will add to the understanding of how service affects families.

It's not too late to Register!

While this brochure has been sent to people already registered for the study, anyone else who is eligible is encouraged to participate. If you know a Vietnam veteran, someone who served in the Australian military between 1962 and 1975 or their family members please encourage them to contact the Study and register on 1800 502 302 or by emailing healthstudy@dva.gov.au

Participation

We are asking all participants to answer questions in a health and wellbeing survey. You can either complete and mail back a printed survey form, which has also been sent to you or complete the survey on-line.

Way Ahead

We have commissioned an independent company, Colmar Brunton Social Research, to manage the survey. They will forward the final survey results to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. These results will not allow the Department to identify any individual participant.

With advice from the Study's Scientific Advisory Committee and Consultative Forum, the Department will combine the survey results with other areas of investigation into a final report for the Repatriation Commission. The Commission will send the report to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

We also intend to publicly release key results from the Study as they become available.

