From: Trev Benneworth
To: "minister@dva.gov.au"
Subject: Coroner Jacqui Hawkins report
Date: Saturday, 13 June 2020 4:51:00 PM

The Hon Darren Chester MP Minister for Veteran's Affairs.

## Dear Minister.

My name is Trevor Benneworth, I served with the RAAF in Vietnam in 1969/70 and I am a TPI covered under the VEA. I also produce and edit the RAAF Radschool Association magazine – The RAM (see <a href="https://www.radschool.org.au">www.radschool.org.au</a>)

While I have no complaint with the service provided by the Brisbane section of DVA, in fact I find them most helpful and obliging, I was pleased to see in the Coroner's report into the death of Jesse Stephen Bird, (Ref: COR 2017 3044) there were several recommendations that, if followed, would alleviate several injustices that exist in the dealings with ex-Service men and women, mainly the benefits provided to those under the VEA and those under MRCA. I wrote about it some time ago – see <u>HERE</u>.

My readers would like to know if the Government is prepared to follow the recommendations outlined by Coroner Hawkins and grant those under VEA the same benefits as those enjoyed under the MRCA.

If so, could you suggest a time line when such changes would be made.

Trevor Benneworth UTT

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