



**Australian Government**  
**The Repatriation Commission**

FAMILY STUDY PROGRAM

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Dear Sir or Madam

In December, I advised you of progress of the Vietnam Veterans' Family Study, which is investigating the long-term effects of war service on the families of Vietnam veterans.

Over 18,750 people responded to the study and their input is now being analysed. I anticipate the study will be completed two years earlier than originally planned and I appreciate the support of all those who completed the questionnaire.

The December update also advised that a final report was expected to go to Government in the second half of 2012 with an anticipated release date of sometime in the first half of 2013 which was three years ahead of schedule. However, resource constraints during the next financial year (2012-13) has resulted in a operating budget reduction across the Department of Veterans' Affairs of approximately \$12 million.

This has meant that resources for the Family Study Program have been scaled back for the next 12 months and the study reports will now be published during the 2013-14 financial year with a revised release date likely to occur in the first half of 2014. While this news may be disappointing, I can assure you the Department will make every effort to finalise the reports and prepare them for publication within this new timeframe, which will still see the reports released two years earlier than originally planned.

If you would like more information on the progress of the study please:

- Visit [www.dva.gov.au/vvfs](http://www.dva.gov.au/vvfs)
- Contact the Family Study Program on 1800 502 302 (toll free) or
- Email [health.study@dva.gov.au](mailto:health.study@dva.gov.au)

Your participation in the study has been important. It is helping us to understand how to best support the families of Vietnam veterans and the families of all past, present and future service men and women.

Thank you for your continuing interest.

Yours sincerely

Mark Kelly AO DSC  
Major General  
Repatriation Commissioner  
Chairman Vietnam Veterans' Family Study Consultative Forum

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