

Research update

New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Intergenerational Health

The above health research was officially launched with the publication of the July issue of the NZVVA Contact magazine. A research Advertisement Sheet contained therein was basically a recruiting process aimed at selecting three to four families of New Zealand Vietnam Veterans (NZVVet) as research participants.

For those NZVVets interested, the next part of the process was to email me as primary researcher and request for a Participant Research Information Sheet. This sheet provided more information on the research such as the purpose of the research, how participants were identified. Research, discomforts, risks, and benefits were also identified.

(A participant Information Sheet for Wives/Partners/Child/Grandchild is available on the NZVVA website for your information).

The next part of the process was for potential participants to connect with family and decide whether or not to apply for a place as a research participant family. After talking with the family members and if they are still interested in being a research participant the family reconnects with me. A family research information meeting is then organised. The purpose of the family information meeting is for potential participants to ask questions to find out more about the research project.

There has been a number of families interested in participating in the research and interviewing has begun. The interviews are conducted online through Zoom. This means in many cases participants are learning how to use Zoom. It has been interesting and very pleasing to watch the younger generation upskilling their parents and grandparents.

The interviews so far have been a mixture of all the emotions from humorous to sadness. Tears have flowed, but overall, I have detected a deep seam of forgiveness and aroha running throughout the interviews and it has been an honor and a great pleasure to be involved in the stories being told.

After the interviews the hard work of analysing the data begins. Transcribing the data (interviews), then searching for findings with common themes using the thematic analysis approach will proceed. Basically, that means finding and connecting themes that run through the generations, and/or between families that can be measured against participants or other reputable research evidence.

At this stage I am not sure how much time is needed to finish the research project. However, my aim is to have something of note to brief you all about at the reunion in Christchurch.

Cheers Eddie