



22 August 2022

Statement from MoU Working Group

Our working group met a number of times both face to face and on Zoom in preparation for our first formal meeting with Lt Gen Sir Jerry Mateparae representing the Crown. The Working Group completed research on the current situation, took presentations from Children of Vietnam Veterans, initiated Official Information Act requests, and updated on USA and Australian initiatives and positions. We also developed our initial position on Schedule One, based on the detail we had gathered. The focus of the negotiation with the Crown remains only on Schedule One.

The initial meeting with Sir Jerry and senior staff from VA was successful and progressed well. The most important outcome was that the MoU will not be changed.

The next meeting is over two days in early September and will continue to focus on improving the outcomes for Vietnam Veterans and whanau impacted by Schedule One.

The formal release approved by Sir Jerry on the negotiations to date is below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Gibson', written in a cursive style.

Graham Gibson
MoU Working Group Chair

Members of the MoU working group

Barry Dreyer
Chris Mullane
Graham Gibson (Chair)
Rex Alexander
BJ Clark – National President RNZRSA
Marty Donaghue – CEO RNZRSA

Support personnel

Carol Taylor – Secretary NZVVA
Rod Todman – Senior Support Advisor RNZRSA



FORMAL COMMUNIQUE

To all Vietnam Veterans and their whanau

The initial meeting between the MoU working group and the Crown was held in Wellington on 16 August.

The meeting worked through the Government's Terms of Reference and confirmed that there is to be no change to the MoU itself. The group was also able to make good progress working through the administrative processes that support the MoU and identifying opportunities to improve outcomes for Vietnam veterans.

No final decisions were made at the meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for early September and a further up date will be provided after that meeting.