

MEDIA RELEASE

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VETERAN'S AFFAIRS NOT FAIR FOR ALL

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest welcomed the Federal Government announcement of a \$600 million increase in funding for veteran's health care and agreed that this funding package will provide relief for many deserving veterans with new or existing health needs.

However Ms Forrest expressed great concern that some veterans in the community were falling through the loop and missing out on their well deserved and much needed support from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

"It seems that the Federal Government has deemed that naval servicemen or women, not in action for 30 days straight and 'on land', are not eligible for some levels of support, particularly in the area of disability support". Ms Forrest was referring to a Circular Head veteran who claims that because he only saw action for 14 days at any single time he is not receiving entitlements.

"The veteran concerned suffers from multiple, debilitating medical conditions as a result of his time serving our country in the naval forces and requires many medications and resources to manage his health problems, all of which impose a significant financial burden" Ms Forrest stated.

"Last month I contacted the Federal Member, Mark Baker, to clarify and investigate these claims but at this stage neither I, nor this veteran, have been contacted regarding this difficult situation" said Ms Forrest.

Mr Tony Grice is willing to speak with the media but wishes to have his identity remain confidential, as he is currently challenging a DVA action to recoup DVA entitlements he believes he is entitled to. Mr Grice states that his injury and subsequent disability, resulted from the nature of his work in the Navy but is not entitled to a DVA Disability Pension because he was not in action on land for greater than 14 days straight. Mr Grice can be contacted on (03) 64525079.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.