



## **VIETNAM VETERANS' FEDERATION**

**8 Mary Street Granville PO Box 170 GRANVILLE NSW 2142,  
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**Incorporating**

**Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association NSW Branch**

**Vietnam Veterans Federation Queensland Branch**

**Vietnam Veterans Federation ACT Branch**

**Vietnam Veterans Federation Victorian Branch**

**Vietnam Veterans Federation South Australian Branch**

**Vietnam Peacekeepers Peacemakers Federation of Tasmania**

**Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Federation of Australia WA  
Branch**

Fran Kelly  
Radio National  
ABC  
13 October 2009

Dear Fran,

An anonymous informant was reported on your morning programme as saying that 25% of successful war veterans compensation claims were in some way fraudulent. We can not let such an allegation go unchallenged.

At our Granville headquarters we have assisted many thousands of war veterans to submit compensation claims for war caused illness and injury. Our experience suggests the allegations made by your anonymous informant are far from the truth. In the first place most veterans who come to us do so reluctantly, sometimes brought in by wives distressed by years of the veterans' ill health. Secondly, we often have to fight cases we consider unjustly rejected in the appeals tribunals; a process that can sometimes take years.

The Repatriation compensation system is not an easy one to scam; any doubts about veterans' stories are checked by contracted researchers. Of course, occasionally someone will slip through; it will happen in any system no matter how well regulated.

Claims such as that made by your anonymous informant are sometimes made by those who meet war pensioners suffering the invisible disability of war caused psychological illness. Because the veterans look on the surface to be OK these observers believe the veterans are receiving undeserved benefits. Should they scratch the surface, however, they would see wrecked careers and diminished lives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McCombe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim McCombe, National President