

MEDIA RELEASE

Education Memorial Box Launched

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP, today launched the latest Memorial Box *Vietnam: The Australian experience*.

"I am honoured to launch the first Memorial Box to focus on the Vietnam war," Mr Griffin said.

"60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, with more than 500 dying. It is important that our students learn more about what Australians achieved during the Vietnam war, as well as what they endured after their return home.

"The Memorial's Boxes are an innovative way of reaching out to students across Australia, particularly those in remote areas, and making our military history more accessible and tangible," Mr Griffin said.

"The Memorial Box program is highly valued by schools and teachers, and is an important part of our outreach program across Australia. I am pleased that we can add *Vietnam: The Australian experience* to the series," Director of the Australian War Memorial Steve Gower said.

"The Vietnam Memorial Box is designed to tell the personal experiences of Australian service men and women – soldiers, sailors, airmen, nurses, entertainers, medical and civilian volunteers, journalists, and those on the home front. It offers great learning opportunities for students that are unable to travel to Canberra to visit the Memorial including *Conflicts 1945 to today* galleries.

Steve Gower said items in the new Memorial Box include a jungle green uniform, survival and ration items, large photographs, replica National Service lottery balls, and case studies including that of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) whose four members were the only recipients of the Victoria Cross during the Vietnam War.

During the last decade, 3,800 schools across Australia have used a Memorial Box. They contain relics (both real and replica), photographs, DVDs and case studies to provide a transportable educational resource.

Vietnam: The Australian experience is the seventh title in the series, which includes topics as diverse as *Australian in the First World War*, *We want to do more: the experience of women and children during the Second World War* and *Too dark for the Light Horse: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the defence forces*.

Schools can learn more or book a Memorial Box at <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/box/>

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