



## DIARY NOTE

### Experts to discuss war wounds and trauma

Veterans, eminent historians, researchers and medical experts from Australia and abroad will meet at the Australian War Memorial in September for a two-day conference that explores the medical perspective on war.

*War wounds: medicine and the trauma of conflict* will feature stories of war wounds and trauma from soldiers and doctors who have served on the front lines. Speakers will discuss the long-term effects of war service on Australian veterans of conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq.

Australian War Memorial historians will address delegates alongside international experts including Professor Jay Winter of Yale University in the United States, who will give the keynote speech on *Shell shock and the shadow of the Great War*.

Other speakers will include RAAF Squadron Leader Sharon Cooper, whose talk will encompass military nursing in Afghanistan; medical specialist Dr Tony White, who will present a doctor's experiences of mine casualties; and Vietnam veteran and former Australian MP Graham Edwards, with a soldier's view of living with war wounds.

Other major themes to be addressed by speakers include:

- Casualties in war, treatment in the field and medical evacuation, surgical teams and field hospitals
- Shell shock, self-inflicted wounds and combat fatigue
- Illnesses and diseases of war (malaria, dysentery, venereal disease, etc), maintaining soldiers' health, the evolution of service medicine
- Facially disfigured soldiers and advances in surgery
- The cost of war and veterans' health studies, the aftermath and post mortems, including the debate over the effects of Agent Orange in Vietnam

The support of the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs is gratefully acknowledged.

**Media are invited to join us at the Memorial for a stimulating and, at times, confronting exploration of the interaction of medicine and war. Memorial speakers are also available for interview prior to the conference.**

<b>What:</b>	<i>War wounds: medicine and the trauma of conflict</i>
<b>Where:</b>	Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent, Campbell ACT
<b>When:</b>	24 – 25 September, 2009.
<b>Interviews:</b>	Now available with Memorial historians who will speak at the event

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