



MEDIA ALERT

Healing Hands

Major General “Digger” James AC MBE MC (Ret’d) will tomorrow launch *With Healing Hands: the untold story of the Australian civilian surgical teams in Vietnam* at the Australian War Memorial.

Written by Gary McKay and Australian War Memorial historian Elizabeth Stewart, *With Healing Hands* tells the extraordinary story of the work of Australian civilians at war for the first time.

Early in the Vietnam War the South Vietnamese government appealed to the United States and its allies, including Australia, for desperately needed medical help. Most of the country’s doctors had been conscripted into the army and the civilian population was facing a medical crisis.

From October 1964 until the end of 1972 over 450 surgeons, nurses and other medical specialists from Australian hospitals volunteered to work in South Vietnam. In the town of Long Xuyen, Bien Hoa, Vung Tau, and Ba Ria they brought expert medical and surgical care, comfort and support to a war-weary and traumatised civilian population.

What:	Book Launch of <i>With Healing Hands: the untold story of the Australian civilian surgical teams in Vietnam</i>
Where:	Western Courtyard gallery Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent Campbell ACT
When:	11am, Wednesday 26 August 2009

Further information:

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