



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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NSAA NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN 4th JULY 2025

Dear members,

I am very pleased to announce a very important milestone for our member Jeffrey Rickerby, and a very likely extension to a particular cohort of National Servicemen who have not had the service recognition they deserve.

Through dogged perseverance over many years, Jeff finally won a review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal, to overturn previous decisions declining his eligibility to be awarded the Australian Defence Medal. The Tribunal's decision reads as follows:

On 10 June 2025, the Tribunal decided to set aside the Defence decisions dated 15 February 2008 and 20 January 2020 that Mr Jeffrey Rickerby not be recommended for the Australian Defence Medal and to substitute for them a recommendation that Mr Rickerby should be awarded the Australian Defence Medal.

Jeff's service as a National Serviceman came to an end immediately when newly elected Prime Minister Gough Whitlam terminated the scheme. In Jeff's case, a false expedient was used in the administrative process, in that the reason for his discharge was recorded as "exceptional hardship for himself or family". Jeff based his appeal on his vehement denial of such hardship and his rightful claim that his service ended, most emphatically, because the NS scheme was terminated.

The Tribunal's thorough review extended to the critical examination of all relevant legislation, and all rules and regulations formulated for discharge administrators to implement the Prime Minister's order, some of which are now deemed to have been hastily, inadequately and erroneously constructed.

The Tribunal's decision is a wonderful reversal of the position taken by the relevant government agencies since 1972 and very likely sets a precedent for as many as 4,000 National Servicemen who ended their conscription in 1972.

I applaud Jeff on his personal achievement and for paving the way for setting a precedent for other national servicemen who were serving in 1972, to also achieve the award of the Australian Defence Medal

With warm regards to all,

Ron Brandy, **National President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia**

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National Service Honour Roll: 287,000 served; 212 died on active service