

Friday 4 September 2009

\$1.2M FOR VETERAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECTS

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin today announced more than \$1.2 million in funding to support 78 health and wellbeing initiatives for veterans and their families across Australia.

"I am pleased to announce that more than \$1.2 million has been allocated in this round of the Veteran & Community Grants program," Mr Griffin said.

"The funding will benefit some 26,000 veterans, war widows and widowers and their families by supporting a range of initiatives including health, nutrition and exercise sessions."

Mr Griffin said the grants demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to organisations that care for the veteran community, and encourage veterans, war widows and widowers and their families to become involved in local health and wellbeing activities.

"Veteran & Community Grants help fund local initiatives that improve access to community care services and encourage social interaction through Day Clubs, Men's Sheds and social excursions," Mr Griffin said.

"It is important that the veteran community has access to a range of programs where they can learn skills to help them remain independent and active, particularly for the elderly living by themselves."

Veteran & Community Grants are available to ex-service and community organisations, veteran representative groups and private organisations that contribute to the health and welfare of the veteran community.

Local and community organisations interested in applying for funding are encouraged to visit www.dva.gov.au/grants or contact their nearest DVA office on 133 254 (for metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (for non-metropolitan callers).