

Dear Sir/Madam,

*“Ensuring grant funding flows to a greater diversity of community service organisations”*

I wish to comment re the above. In 2021, I, together with a small team, organised a reunion for an Army unit ... in conjunction with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a battle fought in Vietnam. The overall commemoration was to be conducted in Canberra by DVA. Reunion activities included unit representatives laying wreaths in honour of fallen comrades at both an Australian War Memorial Last Post ceremony and the DVA Commemoration itself.

Being aware of a grant available from DVA to purchase wreaths, I applied accordingly. Unfortunately, we were acting as an ad hoc group and were not affiliated with a specific ex-service organisation. This meant that we were ineligible for a grant.

DVA helpfully advised that we could circumvent this requirement by having a registered organisation act on our behalf. I contacted one of the associations to which I belonged, accordingly.

I was advised by the committee concerned that this was something outside the scope of their responsibility. [I immediately ceased to be a member of that association.] Another organisation took a completely different approach. They acted on my behalf, passing on my application and acquitting the grant received (which was used in its entirety to honour those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice).

My point is that not every applicant will be an incorporated organisation and deserving cases will arise from time to time. This is particularly likely when a ‘one off’ situation arises, as per the example quoted.

Developing policies which cater for such circumstances and avoid overly bureaucratic practices, will enable grant funding to meet a greater diversity of community service needs. Your consideration is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Cameron

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