

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
(QUEENSLAND BRANCH)**

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**MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release**

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**The RSL (QLD Branch) supports DVA move  
for nuclear test participants**

Mr Doug Formby, State President of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) wholly supports the views of RSL National President, Bill Crews, for nuclear test participants to receive additional free health care.

The announcement was made yesterday by Bruce Billson, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence at the Victorian RSL State Congress.

All Australians who took part in the British Nuclear Testing Program in Australia from 1952 to 1963 can now access health care through the Department of Veterans' Affairs for any form of cancer.

Mr Formby says the development is a critical move in adequately compensating those Queensland veterans directly involved in the Maralinga tests.

"We recognise that these veterans have been left to their own devices up until now but this is a move in the right direction," he said.

"Veterans may continue to make compensation claims under the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (1988), however this is still a lengthy process."

The *Mortality and Cancer Incidence of Australian Nuclear Test Participants* study began in 1999 and since then over half of those directly affected by the testing have died.

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEWS WITH NEW RSL STATE PRESIDENT**

Melanie Mead, Public Relations Officer, RSL (QLD Branch) 0432 820 370

**SPOKESPERSON FOR THE RSL**

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