

# Sharon Grierson MP

Federal Member for Newcastle



## Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans' Association

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# Media Release

## Newcastle's Vietnam Veterans celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Parliament's only veteran

Graham Edwards, Labor's Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and the only Vietnam veteran in the Australian Parliament, is in Newcastle today to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans' Association*.

"We are delighted that Graham will be our guest speaker at tonight's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Wallsend RSL. To us Graham is a hero! He was wounded twice whilst serving in Vietnam, the second time losing both his legs in a land mine explosion, said Bill Myers, President of the *Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans' Association*.

"Graham has shown tremendous courage, never allowing his disability to stop him from making a huge contribution to public life. He has served in local, state and federal levels of government and has always been a champion of veterans' issues. Graham is to be commended for his advocacy on these issues in the Australian parliament. He is a great role model for all Vietnam veterans", said Bill Myers.

Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, congratulates the *Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans' Association* on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

"It is an important time for Newcastle to reflect on the tremendous work and advocacy services that this organisation provides for our veteran community" said Ms Grierson.

"Newcastle is fortunate to have such a dedicated team of veterans to ensure that their voices, issues and concerns are always heard.

"I am delighted to join with the *Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans' Association* in welcoming my Labor colleague, Graham Edwards, to Newcastle for this important occasion.

"Graham knows better than anyone the importance of strong advocacy services for veterans. As the only Vietnam veteran in the Australian Parliament, Graham provides a much needed voice of experience when it comes to matters of defence and defence personnel", Ms Grierson concluded.