



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs



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APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF WEARY DUNLOP

New book tells life story of Australian hero

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today launched a new book on the life of a great Australian and appealed to the nation to support the work of the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 1985 to carry on the work of Australian war surgeon Sir Edward Dunlop. Affectionately known as 'Weary', he is renowned and admired for his leadership while a prisoner of war of the Japanese during World War II. His name and deeds have become synonymous with compassion, courage, steadfastness and hope.

The book, *Weary, An Australian Hero* by Foundation chairman Dino De Marchi and Melbourne author Robert Hillman, is a brief biography of Sir Edward and is written for young students.

Representing the Prime Minister at the launch of the 2008 Weary Dunlop Appeal, Mr Griffin said the not-for-profit organisation had supported the health and wellbeing of veterans for more than a quarter of a century, but volunteers and public donations were essential to its continuation.

"The Foundation seeks to improve quality of life for veterans and their dependants through medical research and the promotion of the personal qualities and standards of excellence that Weary Dunlop came to represent.

"The vital work of the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation exists purely through the goodwill of volunteers and donations. I urge Australians to contribute to the Appeal by assisting in fund-raising, buying a lapel pin or by making a donation," Mr Griffin said.

Mr De Marchi said the Foundation granted funds to worthy medical projects Australia-wide each year. "Most recently we have funded research into prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and mental health. This research assists not only the veteran community, but all Australians," he said.

The Foundation also hosted the granting of a scholarship by Swinburne University and the City of Stonnington to Emily Petersen for outstanding achievement.

Anyone able to assist with the two-week appeal from 12-25 July should contact the Foundation on 03 9387 7833 or info@siredwarddunlop.com.au

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