



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA101

Thursday, 17 December 2009

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO CONTINUE AS SEPARATE AGENCY

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today reassured the veteran and ex-service community that the Government has no plans to merge the Department of Veterans' Affairs with other agencies.

"Consistent with our election platform, the Government remains committed to maintaining a separate and properly funded Department of Veterans' Affairs," Mr Griffin said.

"The Government understands that the needs of veterans and the ex-service community are unique. We recognise that delivering an appropriate level of service for this group requires a Department with a discrete budget and awareness of the special circumstances that exist within this community.

"Veterans should not be concerned by a recent announcement relating to the merger of agencies within the Human Services portfolio – my Department is not affected.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs will continue to work closely with both Centrelink and Medicare."

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The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **1800 011 046**.

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