



# Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA086

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## VICTORIAN VETERANS' CREATIVE TALENTS ON DISPLAY

More than 300 members of Victoria's veteran community have put paint to palette and pen to paper in the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Story Writing and Art Competition on exhibition at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, said today.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition Mr Griffin encouraged Victorians to visit the display to support an important part of the local ex-service community activities in Victoria.

"The exhibition of oil, acrylic and watercolour paintings, craft and textiles, woodwork, ceramics and photography were created by members of Victoria's veteran community as entries in this year's Story Writing and Art Competition," he said.

"This year's entries take you on a journey through Australia's wartime heritage – with particular focus on women and war in the written entries.

"The competition provides Victorian veterans an opportunity to express their thoughts and experiences through art. It is also a chance to get together with mates to research and share wartime stories."

The competition began in 1962 as a form of therapy for returned soldiers at the Heidelberg Repatriation General Hospital and has received more than 20,000 entries over the years.

The Australian Government contributes over \$60,000 to support the competition every year, a joint initiative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and major sponsors the Returned & Services League (Victoria Branch), Austin Health and Magic 1278 radio.

The exhibition at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital is open to the general public from 10am until 3pm Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Entry is free and many items are for sale.

For more information on the Story Writing and Art Competition visit [www.dva.gov.au/media](http://www.dva.gov.au/media)

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**Note to media:** There will be photograph and interview opportunities with Minister Griffin, competition entrants and members of the Victorian veteran community at the opening of the exhibition today at 1.30pm, at the Red Cross Centre, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, corner Waterdale Road and Bell Street, Heidelberg West.

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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