



MEDIA RELEASE

MEFLOQUINE

During operational service, a number of personnel in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) were prescribed mefloquine (trade name Lariam) as a means of preventing malaria. The RSL has considered the position of the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) has recently completed an investigation of chemically acquired brain injury caused by mefloquine, tafenoquine or primaquine.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) recognises mefloquine as being associated with 14 conditions. These can be found at <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/medical-services-and-conditions/mefloquine-information>.

The Returned and Services League (RSL) believes that further studies into the relationship between mefloquine and chemically acquired brain injury are required. We recognise the ongoing suffering of veterans who were prescribed mefloquine whilst serving in the ADF, and request that DVA fund a suitable study to determine the long term effect of mefloquine use.

The RSL has advocates located in each state that can assist current or ex-serving ADF personnel and their families with the preparation and lodgement of claims with DVA and accessing suitable treatment and support under the provisions of DVA's Non Liability Health Care arrangements. The RSL advocates can also assist veterans if they have a diagnosed health condition that is linked with their service.

For more information please contact Georgie Macris CEO RSL National on 0417 253 392