



AUSTRALIANS FOR WAR POWERS REFORM

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ADF Veterans Call for Change to Australia's War Powers

Australian Defence Force veterans and their families are urging Federal politicians to seek public support in advance of overseas wars.

The [veterans' appeal](#) has more than 140 signatures. They demand that any proposal for Australians to be involved in conflict abroad is debated in Parliament and voted on.

A decision to go to war, the veterans say, has momentous consequences for them, for Australian society, and for the people in countries where the ADF fights.

The welfare of future ADF personnel depends on this vital reform.

But at present, the Prime Minister acting alone can make the decision for war without consulting our elected representatives or the Australian people.

'This has not done justice to those people who have served in the past', the Veterans' Appeal states. For those who may serve in the future, it must change.

Independent MP Andrew Wilkie is supporting the appeal. He says:

"The welfare of ADF personnel and their families is impacted by the way Australia commits them to overseas conflict. Faults in that process affect them as seriously as war itself. The Prime Minister must prevent further shortcomings by opening a decision for war to democratic scrutiny and a vote in Parliament."

Former Defence Force Chief Admiral Chris Barrie says:

"Our ADF personnel need to know that when they are sent to fight in an overseas war, the war has the support of the Australian people, as expressed through their elected representatives in Parliament."

ADF Veteran Cameron Leckie says:

"Australian Governments have committed this country to wars based on questionable pre-texts and of dubious legality with significant detrimental impacts on our national security and the veteran community. A vote by the Parliament before deciding to commit Australian troops to overseas conflict is necessary to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, reinforcing democratic principles and ultimately to ensure that the risks taken by our service personnel have widespread support as expressed by the parliament of our country."

Interviews available

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