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WRITE WAY **Research Services**
Specialising in research of Defence war records

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Classification	IN-CONFIDENCE	Message Reference Number	HIST-7/2/01
Precedence	Routine	File Number	
TO: Facsimile Address	Office of Fair Trading <u>Attention:</u> Joe Camilleri Manager Investigations	FROM: Facsimile Originator	John Tilbrook
Facsimile Number	07 3239 0146	Facsimile Number	02 4473 9552
Telephone Number	07 3239 0146	Telephone Number	02 4473 9390
Subject Title	OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING ADVICE THAT RESEARCHERS INTO INDIVIDUAL VETERAN'S WAR SERVICE MUST BE LICENSED AS PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS.		
File Reference:		Date of Transmission	7th February 2001
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		JOHN TILBROOK	

Dear

Mr Camilleri

I acknowledge receipt of your most recent correspondence in which the Office of Fair Trading in Brisbane has reversed its earlier ruling on its interpretation of the business activities of Write Way Research Service (and John Tilbrook) in researching Defence records in connection with individual Veteran's claimed service and contentions.

In your letter dated 30 January 2001 you have advised that the long standing standard practice of accessing Defence records at the Australian War Memorial, the Central Army Records Office, Navy Records Office, Air Force Records Office, and/or talking to past unit officers or persons of a former veteran's unit in seeking confirmation of an incident or action when on military service overseas now constitutes a breach of Section 6 of the Security Providers Act 1993.

I must admit that I am amazed at the this finding of the Ombudsman, but will comply by submitting an application for a Private Investigators License in Queensland as demanded for the conduct of any further historical research of Veteran's claims in that state.

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It is advised that Writeway Research Service no longer deals with any insurance companies, and indeed all work performed since mid 2000 has been confined to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) under a standing Contract service agreement to provide research services on demand. This 'service agreement' is a Commonwealth contract issued by the DVA National Office in accordance with the Commonwealth's extant *'General Conditions for Contracts for Research Services'* which cites that the applicable law as that being in force in the Australian Capital Territory.

The research reports are requested under this service contract from all state offices of DVA, including DVA Brisbane. As such this would require Researchers to make contact former Defence personnel (unit commanding officers, senior NCOs or other first hand witnesses of events that usually took place on operational service many years previously) that are residing in any state or territory in Australia, in seeking evidence or statements to substantiate a Veteran's claims. This of course would include making contacts with ex-service personnel in Queensland, and be connected with claims of a Veteran also residing in Queensland (or indeed any other state). It is my understanding that the requirement for military researchers to hold a private investigators license to conduct research into historical events raised in Veterans' claims has never been advised to the many dozens of professions historians currently used by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In order for the current general conditions of Commonwealth contracts for research services to be tested against the most recent ruling of the Office of Fair Trading in Queensland it is advised that I will be passing a copy of all of the correspondence generated in respect of this matter to the following officer in Canberra.

Mr Ivan Cahill
Director of Legal Services
Department of Veterans' Affairs (National Office)
PO Box 21
WODEN ACT 2606

Yours sincerely


JOHN TILBROOK