

Those who served in Vietnam during the period of the conflict, 31 July 1962 to 28 March 1973, were, up to recently, entitled to only the Vietnam medal unless they served for a total period of 181 days or more. Those that served 181 days or more were also entitled to the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

However, if a member was:

- \* killed on active service
- \* wounded in action i.e. classified as a Battle Casualty and evacuated as a result of those wounds, or
- \* captured and later released or escaped.

He/she was also entitled to the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal provided they served at least 1 day in Vietnam.

There is now a further condition added to the eligibility criteria for the medal.

If you served in Vietnam for less than 181 days but were returned to Australia suffering from PTSD and you can provide documentary evidence of the diagnosis being a result of your service in Vietnam - you are eligible.

To make a claim, in the first instance ring 1800 333 362, connect to the operator then ask to be put through to Service Awards and Medal Management (SAMM). Someone will take your claim over the phone then in a few days you will be contacted by someone from that section asking you what documentary evidence you have to substantiate your claim. If you have a report from your Psychiatrist stating your PTSD was a result of your service in Vietnam you will be asked to get a copy of it into SAMM then in a few days you will receive notice that your claim was successful and your medal should arrive in about 8 to 10 weeks

The Vietnam Medal was issued under the Imperial system but was mainly awarded to Australian and New Zealand personnel.

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was issued by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for service in the prescribed area of operations in Vietnam during the period commencing on 31 July 1962 and ending on 28 March 1973 for Australian personnel.

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<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-campaign-medal>