



THE SENATE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE

**Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the
Australian Defence Force
Public Hearing, Thursday 11 October 2018
Questions Taken on Notice
RACGP**

1 HANSARD, p. 16

CHAIR: Are you aware of any other medical or other treatments that may be of benefit to veterans who participated, for the committee's inquiry, either here or overseas, given your involvement in Papua New Guinea and the prescription of antimalarial drugs?

Dr Burns: On a general level, I would have to take that question on notice and get back to you. I don't have a ready answer for that, I'm afraid.

Answer: The RACGP is not aware of any other treatments.

2 HANSARD, p. 16

CHAIR: Does the college play any role in advising Defence or the Department of Veterans' Affairs in developing information resources for veterans?

Dr Burns: Again, I would have to take that question on notice, but the college collaborate extensively with lots of different groups, and I believe that they would be very open to that. Those would be my thoughts on that.

Answer: The RACGP has a representative, Dr Glenn Pascoe, who attends the DVA Health Provider's Partnership Forum meetings 3-4 times a year, where he provides advice to DVA on these matters. Dr Pascoe also updates the RACGP on DVA programs. The RACGP helps to distribute DVA information and resources through RACGP publications, such as the following articles published in *newsGP* in 2018:

- <https://www.racgp.org.au/newsGP/Professional/DVA-initiatives-to-improve-veterans%E2%80%99-access-to-health>
- <https://www.racgp.org.au/newsGP/Professional/Pointing-the-way-towards-better-support-of-veteran>
- <https://www.racgp.org.au/newsGP/Clinical/GPs-urged-to-check-defence-service-history-as-more>

As well, the RACGP has endorsed a number of resources that provide information and support for veterans - please see the following links:

- <https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2014/november/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-in-veterans/>
- <https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2016/march/supporting-australia%E2%80%99s-new-veterans/>
- <https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2016/march/the-australian-defence-force-post%E2%80%91discharge-gp-health-assessment/>