

Question on notice no. 886

Senator Alex Gallacher: asked the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 25 July 2018—

With reference to British Nuclear Test participants:

1. Does the Department of Defence and/or the Department of Veterans' Affairs keep a record of British Nuclear Test participants.
2. How many participants are still living.
3. Does the Department's record include up-to-date addresses for those who participated in the tests.

Answer —

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs has provided the following answer to the Honourable Senator's question:

1. Answer:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not hold a definitive list of all participants in British Nuclear Testing and no such list exists. DVA does hold a preliminary nominal roll which was created in the early 2000s. The nominal roll is largely based on self-reporting. The details in the roll are not able to be verified due to the length of time which has passed and a lack of authentic records.

2. Answer:

Noting the inherent unreliability of population data (as referenced above), DVA previously advised (SQ18-000096) that 1,992 participants in British Nuclear Tests were still alive (based on data at April 2017). Recently updated estimates indicate approximately 1,721 participants in British Nuclear Testing remain alive. DVA notes that the estimated numbers need to be viewed with caution.

3. Answer:

No, unless the participant has submitted a claim with DVA.