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**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions  
24 September 2008**

**Topic: Restoration of the World War I battle site of  
Be'er-Sheva, Israel.**  
(PET 34 REPS 24 September 2008))

**CHAIR asked:**

**Can you give us an indication of the number and type of request you receive annually with regard to the maintenance of battle sites overseas?**

**Answer**

In the 2007-08 Financial Year, the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) received eight (8) requests for assistance with maintenance of privately-constructed overseas battle sites or memorials. Further details are available at [Attachment A](#).

The OAWG is aware that additional informal requests may be received by DVA State Offices however, as on-going maintenance of overseas privately-constructed memorials is not eligible under Government Programs, the number and nature of these have not been captured. State Offices have been asked to refer requests to the OAWG.

## Requests for assistance for maintenance of /construction of battle sites/memorials overseas

Date of enquiry	Name	Memorial location	Details	Amount of grant	Comments
1/09/2008	John Corbett, QLD, Australia	Malaysia	Applicant wanted the Australian Government to assist Kundasang Memorial Gardens		Specific request was not supported. Minister had already granted AUD\$128,000 to the Memorial Gardens.
21/08/2008	Mike Symon MP, representing Chris Barratt of VIC	Malaysia	Applicant wanted the Australian Government to continuously fund Kundasang Gardens		Specific request was not supported. Minister had already granted AUD\$128,000 to the Memorial Gardens.
11/08/2008	RSL Victoria	Scotland	For Maintenance of a private grave memorial in Scottish hills (Australian Airman)		Not eligible - memorial to an individual/maintenance
1/06/2008	Commodore K M Barnett RAN (Retd)	Greece	Letter requesting maintenance to Vevi memorial		Not eligible - general maintenance
9/04/2008	Be'er-Sheva Municipal Council/Pratt Foundation	Israel	For maintenance of the Australian Light Horse Memorial, Be'er-Sheva	AUD\$10,000 p/a	Request from Be'er-Sheva Municipal Council, submitted through The Pratt Foundation, for over AUD\$130,000 p/a for maintenance of the Park of the Australian Soldier. Minister Griffin agreed to make a contribution to preserving the Australian Light Horse Memorial and its immediate surrounds only. Based on comparable maintenance costs in other countries, \$10,000 p/a was agreed upon.
11/12/2007	Shane Reid (an Australian 'local' living on Bangka Island)	Indonesia	Regarding maintenance of the Nurses Memorial on Bagka Island, Indonesia. The Memorial requires restoration and maintenance		OAWG have assisted Mr Reid by reimbursing restoration work he has already completed.
1/11/2007	Renee Ounsley, Pollington Airfield Memorial Gardens, U.K	England	Applicant wanted assistance with maintenance and repairs and additions of new plaques for Australian servicemen		Applicant withdrew their application for reasons unknown
1/07/2007	Mr R H Townson, Vice-President, Hinkler House Memorial Museum	Italy	Maintenance of Bert Hinkers grave in Cimitero Evangelico 'Agli Allori', Italy		Not eligible - memorial to an individual/maintenance