



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Ref: M21/371

Mr Paul Huy Nguyen
President
Vietnamese Community in Australia
NSW Chapter Inc.
PO Box 106
CABRAMATTA NSW 2166
office@vietnamese.org.au

Dear Mr Nguyen,

Paul

Thank you for your correspondence.

As Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Veteran's Affairs, I recognise that many in the Vietnamese Australian community honour 30 April as a Day of Remembrance to salute the servicemen and women who lost their lives in war. I acknowledge that this incident has brought hurt to members of the community and I appreciate you bringing this to my attention.

NSW prides itself on being one of the most successful multicultural communities in the world and the Vietnamese Australian community is a great contributor to that success. That success, however, is in large part dependent on the respect and tolerance we demonstrate towards one another on matters we may disagree on.

In this instance, I apologise for the hurt you have felt upon witnessing the acts for which you have written to me. Vandalising a flag or symbol with historic, religious, or cultural significance is not conducive to fostering social harmony. I understand that you have brought this matter to the attention of the NSW Police Force and I have asked Michael Shaw, from my agency, Multicultural NSW to contact you directly to discuss this matter in more detail with you.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the NSW Government's attention.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Lee

24 MAY 2021

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