

Veterans News

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Macarthur Veterans
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As a service to the
veteran community

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1800 011 046

Establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

The death of any Australian Defence Force member or veteran is one death too many and a tragedy that is deeply felt by all Australians. Tragically, and heartbreakingly, this includes death by suicide.

Recognising this, the Government will take the step of recommending to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide, following a period of consultation on draft Terms of Reference, with the relevant community and state and territory governments.

The Royal Commission will complement the Government's existing initiative to establish a permanent National Commission to proactively deal with future issues, including taking on other recommendations of a Royal Commission.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Royal Commission will be set up after listening to community calls for a national inquiry focusing on the systemic issues faced by Australian Defence Force members and veterans that too often results in their loss of life to suicide.

"Suicide prevention is a key priority for the Federal Government," the Prime Minister said.

"We have always recognised that the rate of suicide of Australian Defence Force members and veterans is unacceptably high," the Prime Minister said. *continued*

LEST WE FORGET

Editorial Disclaimer

The material in this newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular subject. The Editor disclaims all and any liability in respect to anything done or omitted, whether in whole or in part. No person should take or use any information contained herein without first considering the facts and possibly checking professionally that the advice is appropriate for their particular circumstances.

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, continued.

"In recognising the sacrifices made by our serving and former members and their families on behalf of the nation, we owe it to members, veterans and their families to continue to take action."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Royal Commission was another step in our efforts to build confidence, trust and hope for current and future veterans and their families that they will be supported.

"This will provide an opportunity for us all to reset, further increase our understanding of this issue, and unite the Parliament, the ex-service community, and the families who have been affected by suicide," Minister Chester said.

"As a nation we take great pride in the men and women who have served our nation in uniform, and as a Government we have committed to help them with any mental or physical issues that are a result of that service."

The Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash said the Attorney-General's Department will provide administrative support to the Royal Commission.

"Reducing lives lost to suicide is a priority for the Morrison Government."

"Our aim for this Royal Commission is that it will shed light on the critical steps we need to take so that we can reduce these heartbreaking cases of suicide."

Crucially, the Royal Commission will not defer, delay or limit, in any way, any proposed or announced policy, legislation or regulation that we are currently implementing.

The Government intends that the Royal Commission and the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention will be established together and operate in a complementary way to achieve long-term change.

The Royal Commission will look at past deaths by suicide (including suspected suicides and lived experience of suicide risks) from a systemic point of view, while the National Commissioner will have a forward-looking role, including overseeing the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

The National Commissioner Bill currently before the Parliament will be amended to ensure their work complements the work of the Royal Commission and examines deaths by suicide in the defence and veteran community that occur after the Royal Commission has handed down their final report.

Given the complex issues for consideration, and the importance of hearing from Australian Defence Force members, veterans and their families, the Government envisages that three Commissioners will be needed to lead the inquiry. Consultation is underway to appoint these candidates.

Minister Chester will lead a public consultation process on the draft Terms of Reference and the Prime Minister will write to First Ministers inviting their contributions to the draft Terms of Reference with the view of a joint Commonwealth-State Royal Commission.

The Federal Government is committed to ensuring all the systems of support for our veterans and their families are working together, and importantly that when someone who may be struggling reaches out for help, which we are there to support them.

CONSULTATION OPEN FOR ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERAN SUICIDES

VETERANS and their families, ex-service organisations, states and territories, peak bodies and other interested stakeholders are being encouraged to provide their input for the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide announced recently.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said it was vital that all those involved in the Defence and veteran support system had their say through the Royal Commission.

"Over the coming weeks I will be undertaking a public consultation process to ensure the Royal Commission is focused and based on the experiences and perspectives of those who have been impacted by Defence and veteran suicide," Mr Chester said. "Any member of the community or any organisation is able to provide their input regarding the broad themes released on Monday 19 April and I would encourage them to provide their feedback.

"As part of this process it is important that all state and territories are involved and I have written to my counterparts in each jurisdiction to seek their assistance in consulting with the community.

"We must all work together to ensure that this Royal Commission can start promptly and put us on the path to a better understanding of suicide in the serving and ex-serving community, and importantly, how we can continue to improve the supports available to service men and women, and their families."

Following consultation, all feedback will be provided to the Attorney-General's Department which will lead the drafting of the Terms of Reference. Interested individuals, groups, peak bodies, ex-service organisations and community members are able to review the broad themes for consultation on the [DVA website](https://www.dva.gov.au) and can contribute to the consultation process by emailing royalcommission@dva.gov.au.

Mr Chester said the Government was committed to ensuring ADF members, veterans and their families had access to the support they need, when and where they need it, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk.

"Importantly, I want to assure the Defence and veteran community that the Government will continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families," Mr Chester said. "For anyone who may find this process difficult, help is available and can make a difference. Current serving members can access support through their local Garrison Health Centre or by contacting the All Hours Support Line available 24/7 on 1800 628 036.

"Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides support and counselling to current ADF members, veterans and their families and can be contacted 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

"Those who wish to remain anonymous can also contact Safe Zone Support on 1800 142 072. This is a free and anonymous counselling line established for veterans and their families who may have concerns about anonymity."

WORLD WAR TWO HISTORY

TARAKAN

Tarakan is a small island off the north-eastern coast of Borneo. Prior to the Second World War it was part of the Dutch East Indies and an important oil-producing centre. In early 1942 it was occupied by the Japanese.

Three years later, the recapture of Tarakan was to be the first in a series of operations in and around Borneo codenamed OBOE.

Tarakan's significance lay in its oil infrastructure and in its airfield, which was to be used to support the other OBOE as part of a general advance towards Java.

The operation was entrusted to brigade group based on the 9th Division's 26th Brigade which went ashore on the morning of 1 May 1945.

The landing was affected with little real difficulty but initiated a bitter campaign against Tarakan's Japanese defenders who had withdrawn inland.

The fighting continued until the end of the war in August, by which time neither the island's airfield or oil facilities had been returned to an operational condition.

The OBOE series of operations were some of the most controversial fought by Australian troops during the war. Many senior Australian officers considered them strategically unsound and felt they contributed little to the defeat of Japan.

For sound political and military reasons of its own, however, the United States was reluctant to use Australian troops to re-conquer the Philippines.

General Douglas MacArthur, the American theatre commander, was under considerable pressure from the Australian government to employ Australian troops in visible and meaningful roles.

225 Australians were killed as a result of Tarakan campaign. Relative to the number of troops involved, it was the most costly of all the OBOE operations.

The entire 7th Division was employed at Balikpapan and it suffered only two more fatal casualties. Over 1,500 of the island's Japanese defenders were also killed.

The NSW Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme

From November onwards the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) is going digital. We are beginning to transition away from the manual paper travel dockets to a digital Smartcard.

Information for participants

The Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) is transitioning from the manual paper travel dockets to a Smartcard for your taxi subsidy. The transition will happen over a period of months starting in NSW regional areas and concluding in Sydney Metro.

Tamworth is the first area to use the Smartcard.

If you are a current participant

There is no need to apply for the Smartcard. As a participant, you will be contacted by Transport for NSW directly when the Smartcard is being introduced in your area. However, we do require a photo from you before we send you a photo. More details are available at;

<https://transportnsw.info/taxi-subsidy-scheme-digital-smartcard>

Once we receive your photo, transport for NSW will issue you a Smartcard and instructions on how to use it. This will happen before your area transitions away from paper travel dockets.

For information and details of new applications go to;


<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-taxi-transport-subsidy-scheme>




24Hr 1800 011 046

A service founded by Vietnam veterans,
now for all veterans and families


 @OpenArmsVeteransAndFamiliesCounselling

 @OpenArmsSupport

 @OpenArms

MORE HELPLINES


Department of Defence - Mental Health All-hours
Support Line

 1800 628 036

Lifeline Australia

 13 11 14

1800RESPECT - National Sexual Assault, Domestic
and Family Violence Counselling Service

 1800 737 732



WARTIME POETS CORNER
Contributed by Richard Echin of Camden



A Wail From Ordnance

We're only in the Ordnance,
Not troopers on the line:
We don't attack no enemy,
Nor in the papers shine.
We just wait here from morn till night,
Expecting these 'ere shells
That makes our lives, what were so bright
So many earthly 'ells.

We 'and out underpants and socks,
And boots and coats galore,
To them as gives and takes hard knocks
'An soon gets used to war!
We keep their clothing up to dick,
Equip and arm 'em, too,
We rig out the returning sick
Almost as good as new.

They blew us from our depot south,
A bit along the beach,
We humped our blueys, nothing loath,
And settled out of reach.

Our store grew large and prosperous,
We laughed at Turk and Hun,
Until they trained on us one day
A blasted four- point-one.

Each morning they put in a few
To bring us from our beds,
From time to time the whole day through
They make us duck our heads.
One eye is cocked for cover,
And one ear is for the whiz,
An', until the fuss is over, we
Postpone our daily biz.

Now, when the war is over,
And we return to peace,
Though we may live in clover,
Enjoying lives of ease ----
A striking clock will wake us,
A blow-out make us run
And cry again our old refrain:
"Gott straf that four-point-one!"

Lieut. Kininmonth, A O C
Gallipoli 1915

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENTS FOLLOWING A DEATH.

Compensation may be provided under the MRCA to the dependants of deceased members and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who die or were severely injured as a result of their service on or after 1 July 2004.

For further information please see Compensation for Dependants under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

Similar compensation coverage may be available under the DRCA, if the ADF member's death relates to injuries and diseases suffered as a result of peacetime and peacekeeping service up to 30 June 2004 and operational service between 7 April 1994 and 30 June 2004. For further information please see How to Claim Benefits under the DRCA.

Benefits payable under the VEA, include:

war widow's and orphan's pension, in the event of the veterans' death where the death is related to service;

Details of entitlements and how to claim are available at the DVA web site.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/overview-dva-benefits-and-services>

**Do you know
how weird it
is being the
same age as
old people?**

**GET INTO THE
RIGHT TRAIN
OF MIND**



AND BOARD
at your Depot for a
through Ticket
to the
FRONT



**YOUR COMRADES WANT REST
CAN YOU FACE THEM UNASHAMED**

YOU CAN GET A FREE TICKET
ON THE RECRUITING TRAIN
BY APPLYING TO RECRUITING OFFICER

**THE VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**
Honour the Dead but fight like hell for the living.



CARER PAYMENTS

To get this you must:

- be under the pension income and assets test limits
- be an Australian resident
- care for someone who is an Australian resident
- care for 1 or more people who have care need scores high enough on the assessment tools used for an adult or child
- care for someone who'll have these needs for at least 6 months.

For the full story go to the following web site.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/carer-payment/who-can-get-it>

EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC EVENTS ON MILITARY PERSONNEL?

MONASH UNIVERSITY is exploring the impact of traumatic events on military personnel through a 30-minute, confidential, online study.

Participants must be former ADF members residing in Australia who have experienced trauma and are open to sharing their reactions and understanding of the event.

Survey details 📌

https://monash.azure.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iBJKrIcuacIw90

Or email: michael.kreminski@monash.edu or sean.drummond@monash.edu

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEWS

Keep up to date with what the department is doing, register with;

Department of Veterans' Affairs <vetaffairs@dva.gov.au>

The Lions Club of Ingleburn is offering persons with a passion
an opportunity to serve their community

To learn more contact Lion Wayne Franshaw on 0407 358 693



Legislation for reviews and appeals

Last updated:
20 January 2020

[Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 \(VEA\)](#)

The VEA provides for pensions and other benefits to and medical and other treatment for veterans and their dependants, mostly arising from defence service prior to 1 July 2004.

[Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation \(Defence-related Claims\) Act 1988 \(DRCA\)](#)

The DRCA provides for compensation and rehabilitation arising from peacetime and peacekeeping service up to and including 30 June 2004 and operational service between 7 April 1994 and 30 June 2004.

[Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 \(MRCA\)](#)

The MRCA provides for compensation, rehabilitation and other benefits in relation to defence service on or after 1 July 2004. The Act also provides compensation and other benefits for the dependants of certain deceased members whose death is the result of service on or after 1 July 2004.

Knowledge and Truth are POWER

Get the knowledge

Have the power.



DO YOU NEED MEDALS MOUNTED,
RESTORED OR FRAMED.
Contact John Shay Phone 02 4625 2089
Or Jeff Foster 0419 461 854



Search for a War Grave

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) keeps complete records in its *Debt of Honour Register* of the official commemorations to the 1.7 million members of the Commonwealth forces, including Australians, who died during the world wars. It also details 67,000 Commonwealth civilians who died due to enemy action during the Second World War.

This is a massive database which contains information on the 23,000 cemeteries, memorials and other sites and also certain details of the casualties themselves. For those interested in researching First World War and Second World War war graves and memorials, it is well worth exploring.

The database is contained within the CWGC website and can be searched for:

- particular individuals, using surname and initials; and/or war or year of death; and/or force or nationality; or
- particular cemeteries or memorials. Choose cemeteries (from the casualty/cemeteries drop down list), then put the name or part of the name in the cemetery search box. Place names only bring up cemeteries or memorials with the place name in the title.

Do bear in mind that the register is designed to search for specific individuals, cemeteries or memorials rather than to be used for more general searches.

Once you have reached the record of your casualty, you can print out a certificate for your own records.

See:

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission, website](https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/)

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>

VETERANS AND FAMILIES MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/treatment-programs-and-workshops>

THE END OF AN ERA– NOW INTO OUR MILITARY HISTORY**Australian troops to drawdown in Afghanistan**

15 April 2021

Today the Government announces that Australia will finalise the drawdown of our contribution to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. Over the past two years, we have been reducing our military presence in Afghanistan from a high of over 1,500 personnel to around 80 personnel currently.

In line with the United States and our other allies and partners, the last remaining Australian troops will depart Afghanistan by September 2021.

This decision is consistent with the Government's policy, as set out in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update, to prioritise military resources on our region.

This decision represents a significant milestone in Australia's military history.

Over the last 20 years, Australia has been a steadfast contributor to the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. Australia has fought alongside Coalition and Afghan partners to degrade the capabilities of terrorist organisations, including al-Qaeda.

More than 39,000 Australian Defence Force personnel have deployed on Operations SLIPPER and HIGHROAD, helping to protect the safety and security of the Australian people at home and overseas.

But safeguarding Afghanistan's security has come at a cost. Since 2001, 41 Australian personnel have lost their lives while serving in Afghanistan, and many more were wounded, some physically and others mentally.

The memories of all Australian Defence Force members who have lost their lives will continue to be honoured for their sacrifice and contribution to Australia's mission in Afghanistan.

We also acknowledge all those Australians who have served in Afghanistan and the impact this has had on their lives.

The conflict has exacted an enormous toll on the Afghan people and the complex task of making peace lies ahead. Australia continues to support the peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban. We encourage both parties to commit to the peace process and call on the Taliban to cease the violence.

While our military contribution will reduce, we will continue to support the stability and development of Afghanistan through our bilateral partnership, and in concert with other nations. This includes our diplomatic presence, development cooperation program, and continued people-to-people links, including through our training and scholarship programs.

Australia remains committed to helping Afghanistan preserve the gains of the last 20 years, particularly for women and girls.

**WE SUPPORT THE
AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS**



SERVICES DIRECTORY

Campbelltown RSL Sub branch Carberry lane Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4626 8340

Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch Chester Road Ingleburn NSW 2565 Phone 02 9765 7700

Camden RSL Sub Branch 23 Cawdor Road Camden NSW 2570 Phone 02 4658 0049

Sydney Legacy—02 9248 9000

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Macarthur Sub Branch Inc Campbelltown Phone 02 4628 0684

N.S.W. National Servicemen's Association & Affiliates Inc. Phone 9759-3629, or 9759-3624

Bravery Trust, Supporting those who serve. braverytrust.org.au phone 1800 272 837

Financial Service

Austax, Accountants & Financial Planners Pty Ltd, Oxford Rd Ingleburn Phone 02 9605 8350

Health Services

South West Sydney Area Health Service, Campbelltown Hospital / Camden Hospital Phone 02 4634 3000

Campbelltown Private Hospital, Parkside Crescent Campbelltown 02 4621 9111

Greenhill's Community Nursing, 82 Menangle Road Camden Robert Wilson Phone 02 4655 2522

Vital Home Health Services, Phone 02 9703 5661 or Hoda Al-Hayek on 0425 227 862

Regal Home Health, Community nursing services www.regalhealth.com.au Phone 02 9264 4555

Mental Health -Northside Macarthur Clinic, 92-96 Dumaresq St Campbelltown 1300 652 627

Australian Unity Home care Services, Shop 3 5-7 Lithgow Street Campbelltown 02 4629 1620

Macarthur Care T: (02) 4204 8252 | M: 0478 051 063 W: <http://macarthurcare.com.au>

Macarthur Disability Services, Phone 1800 683 232

Southern Cross Occupational Therapy 02 4655 3559

Exercise physiology— Ontrac Lifestyle Management 02 4655 2266 and www.ontrachealth.com.au

Exercise physiology—Macarthur Natural Health Clinic, 12-14 Queen St Campbelltown, Phone 02 4627 8215

Podiatrist: Geoffrey Crichton 171-179 Queen street Campbelltown NSW phone 02 4628 6030

Podiatrist: Corinna Tracey, 20 Macquarie Road Ingleburn NSW, Phone 02 9829 7525 or 0419 618 502

Podiatrist: Camden Foot Clinic 26 Broughton St, Camden NSW 2570 Phone 02 4655 5600

Podiatrist: Wendy Satara Podiatrist 26 Murray Street Camden 2570 Ph: 02 4655 7390

Hearing service; Hearing Australia Ground floor Shop R9 4 Hyde parade Campbelltown 02 4621 6300

Physiotherapy: Ingleburn Physiotherapy 02 9829 3281

Physiotherapy: Lifestyle and Sports Physiotherapy 02 4647 3373

Physiotherapy: HM Home Physiotherapy (Mobile Physiotherapy Service) ph: 0404 076 778

Chiropractor: Campbelltown Chiropractic Centre. Bradbury Professional Centre Phone 02 4628 7227

Chiropractor: Macarthur Natural Health Clinic, 12-14 Queen St Campbelltown, (near Tim's) Phone 02 4627 8215

Optometrist:: Eyecare plus, 21 Dumaresq St Campbelltown Phone 02 4628 3651

Dentist:: Family Dental Care -level 6, City Centre, 171-179 Queen St Campbelltown 02 4625 4897

Dentist: Dr Dejan Ilic -Suite 122, 4 Hyde Parade Campbelltown 02 4626 1541

Dentist; Dr Warwick Hinds 44 Argyle St Camden 02 4655 6036 or 02 4655 9848

Dentures; Aesthetic Denture Clinic, Shop 22/23, 180-186 Argyle Street Camden 02 4655 4438

Dietician: Rosemary Mifsud, PO Box 671 Goulburn 0431 375 839

Dietician: Cameron McLean ONTRAC Camden and Bowral phone 02 48622444

Federal Members of Parliament

Macarthur: Dr Mike Freelander MP. 37 Queen Street Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4620 0293

Werriwa: Anne Stanley MP— Shop 7, 441 Hoxton Park Road Hinchinbrook 2168 phone 02 8783 0977

Hume: Angus Taylor MP – 18 Hill Street, Camden NSW 2570 phone: 02 4658 7188

State Members of Parliament

Campbelltown: Mr Greg Warren MP - 3/72 Queen Street Campbelltown NSW 2560 Phone 02 4625 3344

Camden: Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP- 66 John Street Camden 2570 Phone 02 4655 3333

Macquarie Fields: Mr Anoulack Chanthivong MP Shop 3, 2-6 Oxford Road, Ingleburn Phone 02 9618 2077

Government Services

Department of Veterans Affairs Phone 133 254 from regional areas Phone 1800 555 254, internet www.dva.gov.au

“OPEN ARMS” Veterans and Veteran Families Counseling service 1800 011 046

Veterans Line after hours crisis counseling phone 1800 043 503

Veterans Home care 1300 550 450

Miscellaneous

Seniors Information Service Phone 13 12 44

South West Community Transport enquiries 02 9426 8999 or Bookings 1300 138 794

Campbelltown Senior Cyber Seekers. (The Computer club for the adventurous.)

Secretary Nanette Peters 02 4628 0484 www.cyberseekers.org.au