



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Minutes**

***Deputy Commissioners Consultative forum – Tasmania***  
**Meeting Minutes**

***26 February 2025***

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Sally Dennington	Deputy Commissioner Tasmania
Kate Morris	Executive Officer
Barry Quinn	RSL Tasmania
Sandie Wilson	Mates4Mates
Garry Beven	Advocacy Training and Development Program
Deb	RAAF-A (proxy)
Ray Williams OAM	TPI Association
LTCOL Neil Grierson	Senior Australian Defence Force Officer
Kimberley McCowan	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Karelle Logan	DPAC

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Melissa Foale	Women's Veteran Network Australia - Tasmania
Don Ryan	Veterans' Reference Group
Kevin Evorall	Legacy Launceston
David Waddle	Hobart Legacy
Jenny Robertson	Royal Australia Air Force-Association
Brian Ellis	Naval Association of Australia
Brian Harper	Vietnam Veterans' Association Australia – Tas
Christine Fisher	Partners of Veterans Australia – Tas

## **Meeting commenced at 1400**

### **Business arising:**

Apologies noted.

### **Agenda items submitted:**

NIL

### **Deputy Commissioner update:**

On 13 February, the Parliament passed the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025* (the VETS Act). From 1 July 2026, all new claims received will be investigated and determined under an improved *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

From 21 April 2025, the first level of external merits review for all claim decisions will be to the Veterans' Review Board, regardless of which Act a veteran has coverage under.

First Assistant has offered to meet out of session with the Deputy Commissioners Consultative Forum and key stakeholders to discuss the VETS Bill. More details to follow.

Over the next 6 months consultation will be taking place on the co-design of the ESO Peak Body and the Wellness Agency. Consultation will take place in person in each state as well as through online sessions. Information will be sent through this network.

The Tasmanian Government's Department of Health is reaching out for consultation with Veterans regarding their proposed 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy. Consultation will take place in person throughout Tasmanian as well as through online sessions. More information to follow.

Mr Young Shin Joo from Patriots and Veterans Entitlement Commission from Republic of Korea Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs will be in Hobart next month on a research project and is interested in meeting with ESO's. If interested, please reach out to the Deputy Commissioners office.

Partners of Veterans are looking for an organisation to take over the Field of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on ANZAC day. If you know an organisation that can take over this responsibility please reach out to the Deputy Commissioners office.

## **Attendee update**

### **Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAF-A)**

The north/west branch of the RAAF-A in Ulverstone has closed with remaining members transferring to the Hobart branch.

The RAAF-A Annual General Meeting will be held on the 22 March 2025.

The RAAF-A have upcoming events being held for ANZAC day and Bomber Command.

### **Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO)**

Commander of 4 Brigade visited Hobart last week and she will look to visit 3 times per year during her appointment.

The DVA Veteran Support Officer will be visiting the Barracks in the coming weeks, details to be provided through this network.

Defence is undertaking key training in Domestic Violence.

In the coming weeks DFMS will be presenting medallions to Children of SERCAT 3 and 5 Members (reservists) for the first time as they have previously only been available to Children of full time ADF members.

### **Advocacy**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month advocacy services will be available at the Devonport spoke.

With the increased training of advocates, in the next few months the number of advocates in Tasmania will be doubled.

### **Mates4Mates (M4M):**

In 2025 M4M's will be focusing on expanding their membership.

M4M Launceston is looking forward to moving into the Launceston Hub once the renovations are complete.

### **Returned Services League:**

The Devonport and Huon spokes were opened in late 2025 and are working well, with 20-30 people attending the regular Wednesday morning tea at the Huon spoke.

RSL Tasmania has been awarded \$1.6 million towards building short to medium term housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness from DVA as part of the Veterans' Acute Housing Program.

## **Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)**

From the outcome of the States and Commonwealth Committee, DPAC have 3 priorities to work towards from the Royal Commission. These are Data Asset, Employment Pathways and Bereavement Services.

DPAC are looking to expand the Veteran Wellbeing Voucher Program. This will look to include widows and partners of Veterans as well as expand the number and types of providers.

**Meeting closed at 1525**

**Next meeting 14 May 2025, 1400**