



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Minutes

Deputy Commissioners Consultative forum – Tasmania
Meeting Minutes

11 June 2025

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Sally Dennington	Deputy Commissioner Tasmania
Kate Morris	Executive Officer
Barry Quinn	RSL Tasmania
Sandie Wilson	Mates4Mates
Garry Beven	Advocacy Training and Development Program
Kevin Evorall	Legacy Launceston
LTCOL Neil Grierson	Senior Australian Defence Force Officer
Brian Harper	Vietnam Veterans Association Australia – Tas

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Melissa Foale	Women's Veteran Network Australia - Tasmania
Don Ryan	Veterans Reference Group
David Waddle	Hobart Legacy
Jenny Robertson	RAAF-Association
Brian Ellis	Naval Association Australia
Ray Williams OAM	Totally & Permanently Incapacitation Association
Karelle Logan	Department of Premier and Cabinet

Meeting commenced at 1400

Business arising:

Apologies noted.

Agenda items submitted:

NIL

Simon Adler, Director, VEA Compensation Claims:

Presented on the new claims processing procedure for incomplete claims and the introduction of the MyOrg for Advocates to submit claims on behalf of their Veteran clients. Task card are in the process of being released to assist Advocates in the use of MyOrg.

Deputy Commissioner update:

Gwen Cherne (Veteran Family Advocate) is finishing up with the Department and sends her thanks for all the support DCCF members give to Veterans and their families. Recruitment is underway for a replacement Veteran Family Advocate.

The building works at DVA and Open Arms Hobart commences on the 23rd of June 2025 and will be completed by February 2026.

The Garden of Remembrance will be closed in July 2025, with works starting on the replacement of the walls. The new walls will be made of a polished concrete and be raised off the ground by pylons to allow a garden to be planted underneath.

The Deputy Commissioner recently attending an open day at the Veterans' and Families' Centre in Burnie where the Governor General was in attendance.

The Deputy Commissioner will be attending the RSL Congress on the 14th of June and providing an update on DVA and the OAWG's.

Attendee update:

Open Arms (OA):

As well as the building works in Hobart, OA are currently negotiating leases to move into the Devonport, Launceston and Huon Veteran Hubs.

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO):

The ADF are finalising their posting cycles for 2026 which will see a new SADFO post into Tasmania.

Advocacy:

BAU

Mates4Mates (M4M):

BAU. The renovation of ANZAC house in New Town will see the M4M centre closed for drop in sessions and all in house programs have been moved offsite for the duration of the renovation.

Returned Services League:

Barry Quinn is retiring as the President of RSL Tasmania on the 15th of June 2025 with Michael Gallagher taking up the position. Renovations at ANZAC House start next week and are due to be completed within six weeks.

Legacy Launceston:

The War Widows lunches are continuing to take place on Wednesdays at Legacy Launceston. Legacy has the junior speaking competition in August 2025.

Vietnam Veterans Association Australia – Tas:

BAU

Meeting closed at 1545

Next meeting 13 August 2025, 1400