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Graham Bird  
Brian Buckby  
Brett McCreadie  
Noel V Parker  
Bob Richardson

Beaudesert RSL  
sub-branch



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 3 September 2022

### Calendar of Coming events - 2022

#### BEAUDESERT SUB BRANCH

2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month	Coffee Catch-up with members TBA
14 September 2022	Peacekeeping Day
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Members General Meeting @ 2pm <b>Note:</b> Preference vote on nominees for election - RSL Qld State Board Directors
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Veterans Health Week – Held at The Club Beaudesert @ 11.30am
11 November 2022	Remembrance Day
25 November 2022	Women's Aux Cent Auction

### Members General Meeting (Wife/Husband/Partners most welcome)

- Next Meeting: 15 September 2022 @ 2.00pm  
Venue: The Club Function Room

♦ We hope you can attend for your input and support to the Sub Branch ♦



## LEST WE FORGET

We remember the following Sub-Branch Members who have sadly passed away this year 2022.

- ♦ Larry Hurst (08/12/2021) ♦ Russell Hartley (14/02/2022) ♦ Raymond Lomax (24.06.22)  
♦ Henry Burchard (07.07.2022)

## **President's Message**

Regardless of where, when, how, with whom and for how long you served, you all took an oath to defend your country under arms. That is in itself an honour. That also enables you, subject to certain requirements, to be a member of what we call 'The RSL'.

Recently, at RSL Qld AGM, Delegates from all over Queensland, including myself, (at the unanimous direction of our Sub Branch Board), voted to endorse and adopt a new (revised) Constitution. Previous drafts, some of which included proposals to allow non serving persons to be admitted to the RSL as 'members' albeit in 'categories' had been defeated at three previous ballots. Had we not finally voted in the affirmative, we ran the risk of having an external body, (ASIC with ACNC), prepare and force regulations on us, as had happened elsewhere in Australia to RSL.

Despite occasional flaws and mishaps, RSL Queensland is a strong and vibrant organisation, dedicated to the welfare and wellbeing of Veterans. Our Beaudesert Sub Branch is committed to being a competent and successful part of our parent body in the delivery of Care, Commemoration and Camaraderie.

As you know we are progressing (slowly) with the building of our new Sub Branch premises. Site and internal plans have been completed and will soon be submitted to Council. This building will be a vital part of our move to be a member focused group. We are still experiencing trouble with our roof at the Neilson Building and are working with the Body Corporate for resolution.

The Board of The Club Beaudesert has indicated that they would like to extend their lease in September and we will negotiate in good faith to ensure that Sub Branch members obtain a fair and reasonable return on their investment commensurate with community harmony. We have recently signed a contract to upgrade the Fire Protection system to comply with insurance requirements.

Thank you to all those who attended our President's Luncheon in July. As most of you know, our theme was centred on Servicewomen, Ex Servicewoman and the partners of Ex Servicemen. I must acknowledge the incredible effort of office staff Joanne and Dianne and the wonderful attention to detail of the presentation of the venue and raffle gifts by Janice Heit. Sincere thanks to Noel Parker who as MC kept a tight rein on the programme and Carol Castles and Steve Monteath for their insightful contributions. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Judy and Gary Alterator, representing RSL SED. I was honoured to have my younger daughter, Claire, an Ex-Servicewoman and now medical professional as guest speaker and yes, in answer to several questions from people afterwards, I certainly did find out things I didn't know about my daughter.

Vietnam Veteran's Day was well attended and despite several incidents controlled under the provisions of Murphy's Law, we honoured our Veterans appropriately. It was most pleasing to see so many joined us for lunch at the Club Beaudesert after the ceremony. Our most sincere thanks to Beaudesert Freemason's Lodge for hosting an excellent evening for RSL members and others, during which our Senior Vice President, Steve Monteath, gave an inspiring and comprehensive account of the Battle of Long Tan. As usual, thanks to all members who have contributed by 'having a chat' to Board members on issues, good or bad, during the year. Our job is harder when we don't know what you want or what you think is right or wrong, we will listen and we will act in the best interests of all members.

Regards to all,  
***Jon Forbe-Smith***  
***President***

## **Secretary**

The Sub Branch has acquired 2 major grants this year. First grant through Qld Remembers to assist with the funds for a Wellbeing & Welfare Hub/Sub Branch. To build the Lysaght building (we have had packed away) on the vacant block behind Harry's Haunt. We are still in the planning stage getting ready to submit to Council for building approval.

Second grant through Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a new Patient Transport/Social welfare Vehicle. Process in negotiations with local Dealer. I am hoping to acquire more grants for next year and will continue on working on this for the members of this Sub Branch.

We held our first Coffee with members on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at VK's Everydays Café. Thank you to the members who did come along and had a chat. It was great to see you attend. Our next one unfortunately with other events on and commitments will probably won't be until November, I will keep you informed. We still are calling for more volunteer members to volunteer couple hours a week to keep Harry's Haunt Museum open. If you might be interested, please let me know, we would greatly appreciate any support we can get from our members.

We would like more interaction between the Sub Branch and members. We hope to hear more from you all with any feedback on what members want from their Sub Branch, how we can better assist.

***Thank you Joanne***

## PAWS/Wellbeing

Wellbeing and Advocacy volunteers have been very busy in assisting with claims and welfare visits. If you know of a veterans that requires assistance, please notify us all information is confidential and we will endeavour to assist in any way we can.

RSL Qld Veterans Services has been very helpful and assisting us with Veterans who require assistance and the homeless in partnership with the Salvation Army.

• **RSL Qld Veteran Services** – Ph: 134 RSL (134 775) (8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday)

Hospital packs are available for those going to hospital for a stay and please ask of the Sub branch if you require one. The contents consisting of personal hygiene items and a couple of 'goodies'.

Veterans and family seeking assistance with claims or wanting to discuss their current DVA needs, Please call the Sub Branch.

Advocates available on Wednesday's. Jay Collins, Chris Smith and Steve Monteath.

If you require any assistance with DVA claims or unsure what you are entitled to please call the Sub Branch office and make an appointment to see one of our Advocates who are ready to help.

**PAWS office is open for clients on Wednesday's by appointment only.**

Please call and make an appointment on

Ph: 5541 3720 or email:

[welfare@beaundesertslsubbranch.com](mailto:welfare@beaundesertslsubbranch.com)

All these services below are available right now - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### • **Open Arms — Veterans & Families**

**Counselling** service is available 24/7 on **1800 011 046**

• **Safe Zone Support** on **1800 142 072** is a free and **anonymous** counselling line for current serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families available 24/7

• **Defence Family Helpline** is available for ADF members and their families, available 24/7 — dial **1800 624 608**

 <b>OPEN ARMS</b> 1800 011 046	 <b>SAFE ZONE SUPPORT</b> FREE ANONYMOUS COUNSELLING LINE CALL 1800 142 072	 <b>Defence Family Helpline</b> 1800 624 608	 <b>Defence All-hours Support Line</b> 1800 628 036
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**Lifeline** is available 24/7 on 13 11 14

*If you know of a Veteran who requires assistance, doing it tough or unwell please let us know. We have welfare bags available for those in need.*

We are concerned about any instances of homelessness in the Veteran community. If you or someone you know is in this situation, please contact 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

Veterans and their families who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness can access a wide range of support, including short term emergency accommodation in times of crisis.

Visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/help-buy-property-or-find-accommodation/homelessness-support>

**PAWS TEAM (Steve, Jay, Sam and Chris)**

## Museum – Harry's Haunt

Harry's Haunt open; Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Saturday We are always looking for more volunteers to assist with keeping Harry's Haunt open Please contact the Sub Branch if you are able to assist, or pop in on the days open to chat to our volunteers, we would greatly appreciate any help and your time.

**Secretary**

## Women's Auxiliary

The Beaudesert RSL Women's Auxiliary are again running their Christmas Card project for the seventh year. Therefore, we are on the lookout for anyone who may have excess Christmas cards they would like to donate, these can be left at the Sub Branch office for the ladies. Each year this project grows and now that we have school students on board doing cards for the Elderly or disabled we require even greater numbers. We distributed over 1500 cards last year. We ran short of cards last year, so this year we are trying to get to the 2000 mark.

Their Cent Auction (Christmas Theme) is coming up on Friday 25 November, 2022 at The Club. Hope to see you there and support the Ladies.

**Joanne Heit**

 <b>Scenic Rim Sings 2022</b> community choir workshop with Jonathon Welch AM DUNV 9.30am-4.00pm Saturday 8 October 2022 Workshop: \$10 including free lunch and morning tea at 9.30am A-CHOIRED TASTE The Scenic Rim Community Choir	 <b>All Welcome 18+ only</b> Resonant for leading ABC's Choir of Hand Knocks' the workshop will be led by multi-award winner Jonathon Welch AM DUNV Gallagher Hall, St Mary's School 1 Bromelton Street, Beaudesert, Qld 4285 Scan to book or go to <a href="http://www.achoiiredtaste.net">www.achoiiredtaste.net</a> More info: <a href="mailto:contact@achoiiredtaste.net">contact@achoiiredtaste.net</a>	
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## **Birthday Acknowledgements**

We wish to acknowledge the following members who had/will have their Birthdays.



**July, 2022**

A. Barrand ♦ G. Drynan ♦ T. Kerrison ♦ H. Lunniss ♦  
G. Miller ♦ A. Muller ♦ P. Neal ♦ B. Quinn ♦  
D. Riley ♦ M. Roest ♦ P. Seddon ♦ C. Smith ♦  
K. Smith



**August 2022**

G. Arnold ♦ L. Bancroft ♦ R. Darragh ♦  
R. Downes ♦ L. Dunstan ♦ C. Fisher ♦ J. Greber ♦  
D. Hewett ♦ T. Holt ♦ J. Hunt ♦ R. Kliese ♦  
J. Leatherbarrow ♦ D. Lunniss ♦ R. Marsh ♦  
D. Morgan ♦ J. Mustart ♦ E. Pottinger ♦ A. Terry ♦  
L. Wilkinson



**September 2022**

P. Bryan ♦ T. Castelejin ♦ G. Cooling ♦ J. Davis ♦  
E. Hardgrave ♦ M. Joyce ♦ G. O'Toole (OAM) ♦ D.  
R. Richardson ♦ A. Shanks ♦  
M. Sheehan ♦ R. Slatter

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## **SUB BRANCH** **NEWS**

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### **Welcome New Members – 2022**

M. Sheahan ♦ M. Paine ♦ D. Kassulke ♦  
R. Dendle

### **Monthly Coffee catch-up**



Next Date to be confirmed.

## **Secretary**

### **Sub Branch Library Open**



The Sub Branch has a large collection of books and DVD's that has been donated to the Sub Branch. The Library is open to all members and their families use. Please come in and see what collection of books and DVD's we have.



### **QAS Patient Transport**

#### **Information for Members**

We are urgently seeking more volunteer drivers to continue this service for our Community. If any Members are interested in hearing more about this program, please feel free to call the office to speak with Dianne or Joanne for further information. The office number is **Ph: 5541 3720** and we are available from at least 9am to 1pm each week day. As a footnote: the drivers who do volunteer their time find their role very satisfying. It is a really valuable use of their time and they make great connections with other drivers and the patients they transport. It also gives a great insight into the Queensland Health services.

**Dianne**  
**Transport Co-Ordinator**

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## **BEAUDESERT SOCIAL GOLF CLUB**



There is no requirement to be a member of the Beaudesert Social Golf Club, however, they would love to see more ex-Military and Veterans in their ranks. It is a great day with 18 holes of Golf, Morning Tea, BBQ lunch and prizes in excess of \$100. They have players of all skill levels, but the main aim of the day is to have fun, enjoy yourself and meet some likeminded people. They have our own Handicap System so everyone regardless of ability has a fair chance to win Prizes. Why not come along and have a game?? For more information contact the Beaudesert Golf Club.

## RSL Qld News

### Election of RSL Qld State Board Directors

Please see the attached document regarding the election process for Board Directors. Important points:

- Nominations for the four new Board Director positions closed on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August. (The position descriptions, nomination form and selection process are available on the [2022 Director Election](#) webpage).
- Electronic voting will take place between Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October. (Candidate profiles will be published on the [2022 Director Election webpage](#) when voting opens).
- RSL Qld will be using the details of the delegate who attended and voted at the State AGM in June as the delegate who will vote on behalf of your Sub Branch in these elections.
- The deadline for a change in delegate is **5.00pm, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> August**.

**NB:** Sub Branches may be required to change their general meeting date to accommodate the direction your Sub Branch wishes to take in these elections.

## ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE INTERIM REPORT

12 August 2022

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has today presented its interim report to the Governor General, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).

With the interim report now public, RSL Queensland commits to reviewing its findings and working across the sector to ensure that the report's findings are delivered. Throughout the Royal Commission, we have collaborated with our colleagues in the RSL across Australia to share our insights and explain our services to the Commission. We recognise the release of this interim report as an important milestone and reaffirm our support for the valuable work of the Royal Commission. RSL Queensland will continue to support veterans and their families to safely share their experiences with the [Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#). The Royal Commission will accept submissions until Friday 14 October 2022.

The Attorney-General's Department has advised that as a part of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide two types of legal assistance arrangements will be available – a legal financial assistance scheme and a national legal advice service. Please follow [this link](#) for

information about the assistance provided by the Australian Government. (Refer to attached info at end of newsletter from link).

If you have been affected by the issues raised by the Royal Commission, please contact Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling on [1800 011 046](#) to access free and confidential counselling and support for current and former serving ADF members and their families. Their counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**RSL Queensland State President**

**Major General Stephen Day DSC AM**

## DVA NEWS



### *New therapy to treat PTSD for veterans* **17 August 2022**

The Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Thistlethwaite today launched a new world-first therapy to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in partnership with the Department of Defence and Phoenix Australia, has developed this innovative new method, which is an accelerated and effective treatment that is now being offered to help improve the lives of veterans and Defence members through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling.

It is a sad reality that veterans experience symptoms of PTSD at higher rates than the broader Australian community. For many years now, prolonged exposure (PE) therapy has been one of the best ways to treat PTSD and improve quality of life for veterans. This PE is a form of cognitive behaviour therapy. It teaches patients how to approach trauma-related memories in a safe and controlled way. It is human nature to avoid things that remind us of past trauma. But doing so can reinforce feelings of fear. By facing what has been avoided a patient can decrease symptoms of PTSD. This is PE's objective.

The Rapid Exposure Supporting Trauma Recovery (RESTORE) trial investigated a new method of delivering PTSD treatment through an intensive form of exposure therapy delivered within a two-week period, instead of the usual 10.

The results show this new method of treatment to be equally as effective as standard treatment while potentially offering additional lifestyle benefits. Over half of the participants in the trial lost their

diagnosis of PTSD. Participants were also 4 times less likely to drop out of the condensed version of the therapy than the standard model.

The 10 week duration of PE therapy can be difficult for current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel to commit to, especially if they are transitioning from the military or seeking employment.

RESTORE is about offering veterans a choice. Both forms of treatment, the standard and condensed, are now available for serving and ex-serving Defence personnel through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling. Veterans can feel empowered to choose a therapy that best suits their circumstances.

To find out more, contact Open Arms on 1800 011 046 or visit [www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au).

Full details about the RESTORE trial, including associated findings, are published in the [Psychological Medicine Journal](#).

## ***Release of Royal Commission Interim Report***

### ***11 August 2022***

On 11 August 2022, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide released its Interim Report, which provided a number of recommendations to help prevent those who have served in the Australian Defence Force from taking their own life. The interim report's recommendations include increasing resources to address the claims processing backlog, simplifying veterans legislation, improving access to information for families, improving the transition to civilian life, and access to mental health, financial and medical support services for veterans. DVA thanks the witnesses who have provided testimony in public and private hearings, as well as all those who have made submissions.

The Royal Commission continues to examine past deaths by suicide, including suspected and attempted suicides, from a systemic perspective. So far, hearings have been held in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Townsville, and Hobart. During the hearings, testimony has been provided by veterans and their families with lived experience, professional witnesses, and officials from a number of government agencies, including the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defence.

The Interim Report has highlighted several key issues on which DVA must reflect and act. These include the simplification of DVA's legislation, bolstering staffing and resources to reduce the claims backlog, improving the transition process for

those leaving the ADF, and increasing availability and access information and services. The ongoing nature of the Royal Commission allows the Commissioners to continue to engage with stakeholders, gather testimony, and analyse data. Submissions will remain open until 13 October 2023, with the final report expected in mid-2024. The Royal Commission is independent of Government, including the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, DVA, and the Department of Defence. You can find a copy of the Interim Report on the [Royal Commission's website](#).

### **Making a submission**

The [Royal Commission's website](#) outlines information about the process for the Royal Commission and how to make a submission or contact the Commissioners.

### **Legal support**

The Defence & Veterans Legal Service has been established to support Defence personnel and veterans during the Royal Commission. This nationwide service will provide free and independent information and legal support to assist Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans, as well as their families, carers and supporters, to safely share their experiences with the Royal Commission. The service began on 1 November 2021. Further detail about these services can also be found on the [Service's website](#).

### **Support**

We recognise the importance of ensuring that all veterans, especially those who are most vulnerable, and their families have timely access to appropriate support. Separate to the Royal Commission, veterans and their families can continue to contact Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling for free support and counselling available 24/7, or Safe Zone Support for free support and counselling available 24/7 for those who wish to remain anonymous.

- Open Arms – [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046)
- Safe Zone Support – [1800 142 072](tel:1800142072)

## ***WATCH: Mobility, independence and a new lease on life***

### ***10 August 2022***

Army veteran, Ray Chadburn, talks to DVA TV about rediscovering independence through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program.

Ray is an Army veteran, having served in Singapore, Malaya, Thailand, Vietnam and New Guinea.

In 1966, he suffered from hearing loss and sunburn and was involved in a vehicle accident injuring both of his shoulders and leaving his arms in slings for six weeks.



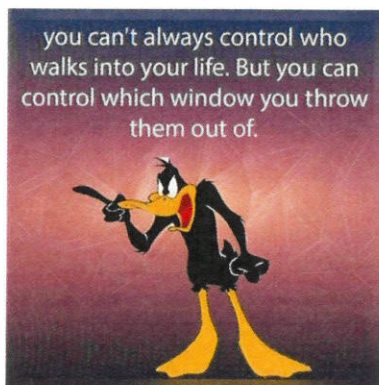
These injuries still cause him pain today. Ten years ago, he reached a point where, in his words, he 'couldn't carry on normally' and 'had to have appliances to help his mobility'. He accessed the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) to help improve his quality of life, including equipment such as beds, recliners and walkers; as well as mobility aids including scooters and wheelchairs. This equipment is provided to make veterans' lives easier and assist with daily challenges.

'You've served your country, you've suffered during your service, you should get help from DVA. Don't be too proud to ask for help. Go and get it.' These appliances have helped Ray regain his independence, positively impacting his life and the lives of his wife and family members. 'The appliances have improved my standard of living 100%. If I never had these appliances, I'd be stuck at home, sitting there, twiddling my thumbs. I can socialise, which is very important, and I feel a bit younger'.

Thank you, Ray, for your service, and for letting us share your amazing story. Ray's story can be found on [DVA TV](#), and subscribe to the channel for more veteran stories like this one.

For more information on the Rehabilitation Appliances Program, go to [www.dva.gov.au/RAP](http://www.dva.gov.au/RAP) or call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

## Sent in by members



### The Usher

An elderly woman walked into the local country church.

The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said.

"The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered.

## SUB BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### Presentation to Volunteer Janice Heit



### Donation to Jimboomba Cadets





## Presidents Luncheon 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022



President & Guest Speaker Dr Claire Lynch



Quilt made and donated to Sub Branch by Dianne Mulder (employee of Sub Branch)



# Vietnam Veterans Day

18 August 2022

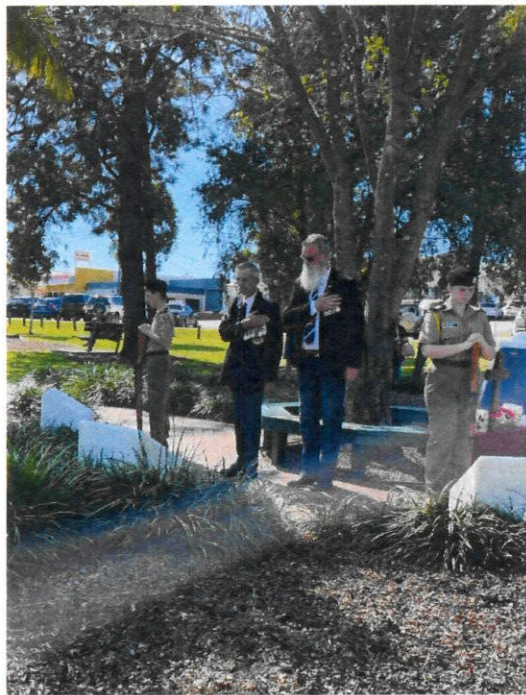
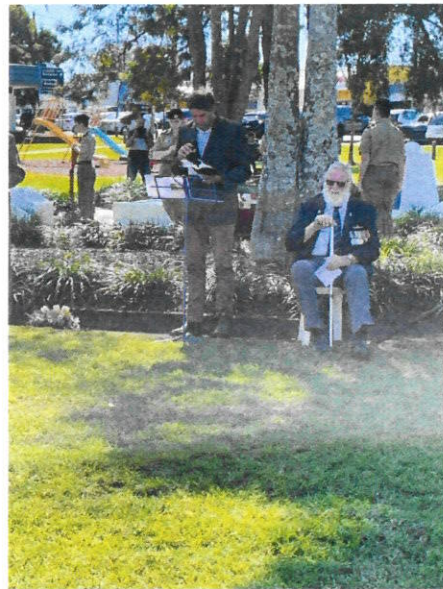
Memorial Service held at Palm Gardens  
Jubilee Park



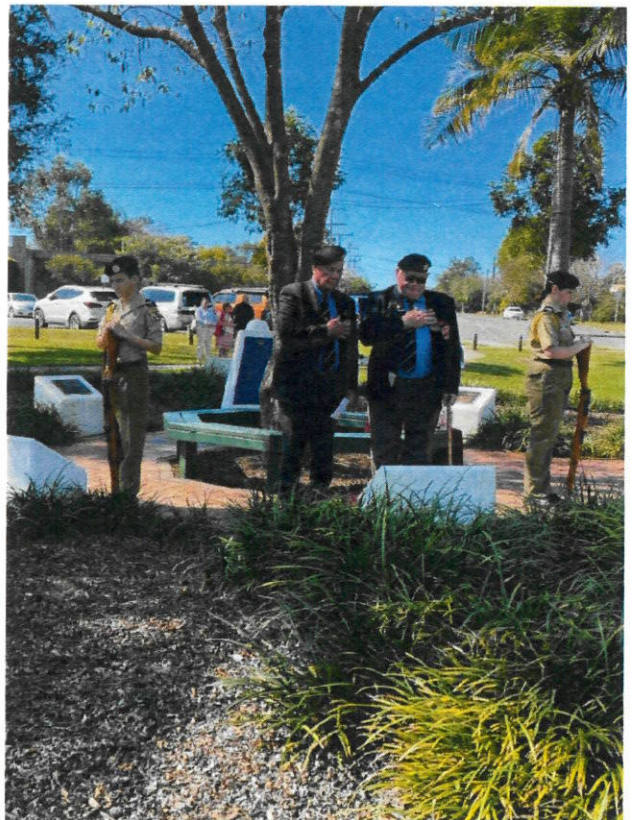
B. McInness















**Ladies monthly morning tea**





RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



BEAUDESERT RSL SUB BRANCH Inc.

Is holding a Memorial Service for

## Australian Peacekeeper Day Memorial Service

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



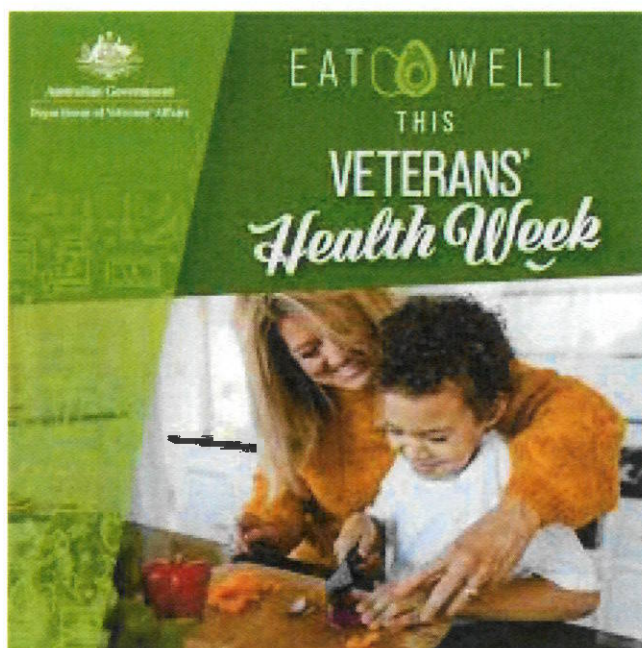
**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

**Time: 11am**

**Venue: PALM GARDENS  
JUBILEE PARK**



**BEAUDESERT RSL SUB BRANCH  
INVITES YOU AND YOUR PARTNER TO ATTEND OUR  
ANNUAL  
VETERAN'S HEALTH WEEK  
LUNCHEON ON  
7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**



**Guest Speaker - Healthy Eating**

**TIME:** 11.30am

**VENUE:** The Club Beaudesert (Function room)

**RSVP By:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022





# Support for veterans and their families



## Visit the Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

The Mobile Service Centre can help you access Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) information and services:

- register a DVA online account
- find out about support and benefits available
- access other government services.

**DATE: 26/09/22 - 27/09/22**

**TIME: 9.30am - 4.00pm**

**LOCATION: BOONAH**

**TOWN: Boonah**

We're trialling delivering DVA services in the Mobile Service Centres for a limited time only.

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)



Australian Government  
Services Australia



[servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au)



# Support for veterans and their families



## Visit the Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

The Mobile Service Centre can help you access Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) information and services:

- register a DVA online account
- find out about support and benefits available
- access other government services.

**DATE: 28/09/2022**

**TIME: 9.30am - 4.00pm**

**LOCATION: RATHDOWNEY**

**TOWN: Rathdowney**

We're trialling delivering DVA services in the Mobile Service Centres for a limited time only.

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)



Australian Government  
Services Australia



[servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au)



# Support for veterans and their families



## Visit the Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

The Mobile Service Centre can help you access  
Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) information and services:

- register a DVA online account
- find out about support and benefits available
- access other government services.

**DATE: 29/09/2022**

**TIME: 9.00am - 3.00pm**

**LOCATION: KALBAR**

**TOWN: Kalbar**

We're trialling delivering DVA services in the Mobile Service Centres for a limited time only.

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)



Australian Government  
Services Australia



[servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au)

# Queensland Seniors News

## Have your say on a new Seniors Strategy for Queensland

The Queensland Government respects and values the contribution of our seniors and gives them a voice about what is important to them as they age.

How we age is changing. Older people are living longer, are healthier and are more active than ever.

Older people are important to Queensland's future and who better to inform us about their experiences and aspirations than older Queenslanders themselves.

To ensure that Queensland seniors have the opportunity to share their thoughts with us, we have launched an [online seniors survey](#). Seniors can access the survey

at <https://queenslandcommunities.engagementhub.com.au/seniors-strategy>.

The answers you provide will help us to develop a new Seniors Strategy that meets the needs of older people across Queensland.

The Queensland Government expects to release the new Seniors Strategy in 2023. It will address the issues raised through our engagement so far, such as social isolation, health, age-friendly community development, transport, housing and assisted living.

The strategy will provide a clear way forward for a state-wide action plan, informed directly by the voices of older Queenslanders, to build a state where they are valued, respected and actively engaged.

**Make sure you have your say at [www.qld.gov.au/seniors](http://www.qld.gov.au/seniors)**



## Are you getting your Cost of Living rebate?

Households are set to receive a \$175 Cost of Living Rebate from September 2022.

The rebate builds on the \$50 asset ownership dividend announced earlier this year. The Queensland Government has increased this assistance for households from \$50 to \$175 in response to the extra cost of living pressures many Queenslanders are facing.

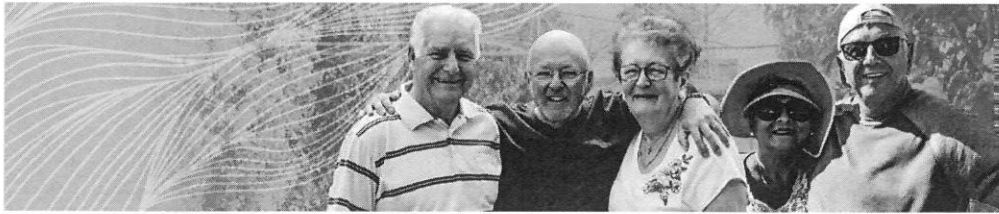
The rebate will be automatically credited to eligible customer electricity accounts from 31 August 2022 and will appear on residential customers' bills between September and November 2022, depending on individual billing cycles.

These rebates are in addition to any other energy rebate or concession for which a customer may be eligible.

The Cost of Living Rebate is being provided to residential customers who are separately charged for their electricity.

Contact your energy provider if you think you haven't received the rebate on your next energy bill or find out about all the concessions you may be eligible for at [www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions).





## Getting the right supports

Older Australians now have more ways to find out about My Aged Care services.

They can access general information about government-funded aged care services in person in all Services Australia (formerly called Centrelink) service centres.

In some service centres people can get more specialised aged care support. Aged Care Specialist Officers (ACSOs) are currently available in 15 locations across Australia and provide face-to-face help with:

- providing in-depth information on the different types of aged care services
- checking if someone is eligible for government-funded services and making a referral for an aged care assessment
- providing financial information about aged care services
- helping appoint a representative for My Aged Care
- connecting people to local support services.

By 31 December 2022 there will be ACSOs in 70 service centres. There will also be 10 ACSOs providing outreach services in rural and regional areas.

This face-to-face service is in addition to the existing My Aged Care channels. People can access these services either:

- at [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au)
- by calling [My Aged Care](tel:1800200422) on 1800 200 422

To find out more about Aged Care Specialist Officers, including their locations, go to [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/myagedcarefacetoface](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/myagedcarefacetoface).

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## Boosters and additional doses – COVID-19

It's important to keep your COVID-19 vaccinations up-to-date, which means having all boosters you are eligible for. Getting boosters will provide an extra layer of protection against COVID-19.

People aged 50 and over, and those at greater risk of severe illness, are recommended to have a fourth dose (a second booster, also called a winter dose), from 3 months after the first booster dose.

Even if you've had COVID-19, you should still get your boosters after an interval of 3 months.

Use the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/) at <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/> to find a location to get your booster or additional doses. Speak with your GP or treating specialist to discuss your individual circumstances if you are immunocompromised. You do not need to return to where you got your primary course of COVID-19 vaccine. The date you had your vaccine doses is on your COVID-19 [digital certificate](http://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/certificates) at [www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/certificates](http://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/certificates) or immunisation history statement.

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August 2021

## Legal assistance - Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

As part of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide two types of legal assistance arrangements will be available - a legal financial assistance scheme and a national legal advice service.

### Legal financial assistance scheme

Legal financial assistance may be available for individuals or organisations giving evidence or formally engaging with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

#### Eligibility for legal financial assistance

Legal financial assistance may be provided to an entity for their reasonable legal representation and disbursement costs where they are:

- called, or granted leave to appear, as a witness at a public or private hearing
- requested to attend a private session of the Royal Commission (if the Royal Commission authorises legal representation to be present)
- requested to attend or are attending an interview of the Royal Commission
- requested to provide a written statement that will be used as evidence of the Royal Commission
- required to comply with a notice to produce issued by the Royal Commissioner.

If your organisation has been called by the Royal Commission, the organisation will be assessed to determine whether it can meet the cost of its legal representation without incurring serious financial difficulty.

If you have been called in your personal capacity, you will be exempt from an assessment of financial circumstances.

#### Apply for assistance

To submit an application, download and complete the [Application form for legal financial assistance](#).

Scan and email your completed application with supporting documents to [finass@ag.gov.au](mailto:finass@ag.gov.au).

If you cannot send your application by email, call:

- Legal Financial Assistance Casework on 02 6141 4770 or 1800 117 995 between 8.30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service and give 02 6141 4770 as the number you would like to call.

## Supporting information on financial circumstances

Organisations must provide full details of the applicant's financial circumstances. This includes:

- annual income from all sources
- total value of assets
- total balance of savings/shares.

Attach supporting documentation to the application, such as:

- the last 6 months of bank statements
- latest tax assessments
- annual financial statements.

We treat all information you provide to support the application in confidence.

## Costs that are covered

We will pay for reasonable legal representation and disbursement costs that you may incur if you are formally engaging with the Royal Commission, for example, costs you incur as a witness for the Royal Commission. These could include your solicitor's costs (such as attendance or preparation of documents) and disbursements (such as solicitor's travel, photocopying).

Refer to the publication [Commonwealth legal financial assistance - Assessment of costs](#) for detailed information of what is payable and at what rate.

Find out more about financial assistance in the [Commonwealth Guidelines for Legal Financial Assistance 2012: Addendum for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#).

## Assessment timeframes

Completed applications will be assessed within 21 days. Incomplete applications will not be assessed. We will notify you if your application is incomplete to request missing information.

If you receive less than 21 days' notice of appearing or attending an interview of the Royal Commission, we will try to assess your application before the date of your appearance.

## Payments process

If a grant is approved, we will only pay after the work has been performed and you have lodged a claim with us. The [Commonwealth legal financial assistance - Assessment of costs](#) sets the maximum amount that we can pay under grants.

## National legal advice service

A legal advice service will be established for people who want to engage with the Royal Commission. The legal advice service will operate nationally and provide legal advice and information to assist Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans, their families, carers and supporters to access and engage with the Royal Commission. It will be an independent, trauma-informed, culturally safe and accessible service. The legal advice service will enable people to understand their legal rights and options in engaging with the Royal Commission.

The legal advice service will provide referral to counselling and other support services to ensure a holistic and cooperative approach to assisting people to engage with the Royal Commission. The legal advice service will not require the individual to be a formal witness of the Royal Commission.

The service will run for the duration of the Royal Commission. It is anticipated the service will be available in September 2021. More information about the legal advisory service will soon be available on Attorney-General's Department's website at [Commonwealth Legal Financial Assistance](#).



## Find out more

For more information including a copy of the guidelines governing the process for legal financial assistance visit the Attorney-General's Department's [website](#).

Contact the Legal Financial Assistance Casework team:

- call 02 6141 4770 or 1800 117 995 (between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday)
- email [finass@ag.gov.au](mailto:finass@ag.gov.au)

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