

Deputy Commissioner's Consultative Forum - Tasmania
Meeting Number 42 - Summary
22 June 2022

Present

Luke Brown	Deputy Commissioner TAS – Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) (Chair)
Rob Grey	Hobart Legacy Inc
Barry Quinn	Returned and Services League – Tasmania
Cathy Starling	Mates4Mates – Tasmania
Des Berry (proxy)	Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Ltd – Tasmania
Alan Robertson	Royal Australian Air Force Association – Tasmania
Jacinta Leahy	Partners of Veterans Association - Tasmania
Terry Roe	Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Elaine Devlin	Open Arms
David Waddle OAM	Advocacy representative.
Alex McNeill (proxy, via VC)	Naval Association of Australia – Tasmania
Graeme Barnett RFD (via VC)	Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association – Tasmania
Mark Horner (observer, via VC)	Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association – Tasmania
Terry Byrne (proxy, via Teams)	Launceston Legacy Inc
Anne James	Executive Officer – Department of Veterans' Affairs
Rochelle Devlin	Executive Assistant, Scribe – Department of Veterans' Affairs

Apologies

Kevin Evorall	Launceston Legacy Inc
Brian Ellis	Naval Association of Australia – Tasmania
Ray Williams OAM	Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Ltd – Tasmania
LTCOL Paul O'Donnell CSM	Senior ADF Officer (SADFO) – Tasmania
BRIG John Withers	Veterans Reference Group – Tasmania
Wendy Yardy	Tasmanian State Government

Guest speakers

Colin Pickstone	National Engagement and Project Manager (Defence) – Kookaburra Kids
Jennifer Veitch	Executive Director (DVA) – Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Division (MHWSO)

Business Arising

Apologies noted. Members endorsed minutes from Meeting 41 held on 30 March 2022.

Incoming member Mark Horner was welcomed to the forum whilst outgoing member Graeme Barnett was recognised for his enthusiasm and valuable contributions to our forum and the veteran community.

Deputy Commissioner Update:

Chair Luke Brown advised on the recent change of Government with new portfolio [Minister The Hon Matt Keogh MP](#) and [Assistant Minister The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP being sworn in.](#)

Luke mentioned that due to the new Government, some timeframes have shifted whilst the new Minister is being briefed. Forum was advised that Budget measures announced by the previous Government needed to be reconfirmed by incoming Government.

Luke reminded the members of the current hearings of the Royal Commission (RC) being held in Townsville, with the next block to be held in Hobart, 1-10 August. Members discussed having been invited by the commission to attend round table discussions. Video and transcripts of all hearings can be accessed [here](#).

Luke informed of a backlog in the payments of household services accounts and implored members to reach out if they were aware of specific unpaid balances that required urgent attention.

Colin Pickstone – Kookaburra Kids

Colin advised the forum of the intention to have a Tasmanian branch of Kookaburra Kids up and running by years end. The purpose of the program is to upskill defence kids impacted by family mental health issues to build resilience, knowledge and abilities to reach their full potential. Services are delivered to young people aged 8-18, providing evidence-based, age appropriate prevention and early intervention mental health services, embedded within a peer-based social and activity based format.

Jennifer Veitch – MHWSO

Jennifer spoke to the forum on a recently established Service Review and Transformation Program to reconsider how DVA delivers mental health and wellbeing support services, addressing the evolving needs of the veteran community. The Program will identify, co-design, prototype, test and implement solutions and an organisational structure.

Jennifer discussed internal and external stakeholder consultation which will occur throughout the program including:

Current State Review: input from veterans, families, staff, external providers and ESOs.

Future Trends Review: industry, Government and experts; and

Solutions Design project: veterans, families, staff, external providers, ESOs and experts.

To participate in the analysis, please access it at [Horizon Scan Survey](#). This link is not for further distribution as invitations are limited. Registration for information about further opportunities to contribute to the DVA Mental Health and Wellbeing Service Review and Transformation Program can be submitted at [DVA SRTP Registration](#). Members are welcome to share this general registration link with relevant networks and the wider veteran community.

ESO Updates:

Royal Australian Air Force Association – Tas: Alan Robertson reported on change of governance within RAAF-A. National council have decided upon a Federation Council and affixed to this will be an Airforce Association Limited Board. Alan to attend national consultation being held in Canberra 1-4 August 2022.

Open Arms: Elaine Devlin reported on Open Arms (OA) 40th Anniversary celebrated 19 May and confirmed the bolstering of their Community and Peer team with a full contingent now supporting Tasmanian veterans and their families.

Advocacy update: David Waddle confirmed the Strategic Governance Board of ATDP has been disbanded and as a result, David's position has altered. He advised that he and Garry Bevan remain Regional Mentors for Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia and have visibility and mentorship of accrediting advocates.

Mates4Mates -Tas: Cathy Starling advised on their programs running smoothly and a staff increase in Launceston now accommodating two staff and a new social worker in Hobart complemented by an increase of cross over work with RSL.

Hobart Legacy Inc: Rob Grey updated the forum on the projects to commemorate Legacy's 100th Anniversary next year, being the torch relay and grevillea project. Badge week is being held end of August.

Partners of Veterans Association – Tas: Jacinta Leahy reported on a recent members trip to Burnie with visions of gaining an anchor for the association in that part of the state.

Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women - Tas: Proxy Des Berry advised on the success of the Anzac Day football match held at North Hobart oval. Members also noted the Federation's successful application for a Veterans Community Grant. Planning is underway for Veterans Health Week (VHW).

Returned and Services League - Tas: Barry Quinn updated members on RSL congress held in May and that RSL Tas is increasing wellbeing and advocacy services in the state.

Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia – Tas: Terry Roe advised members that both of the accommodation facilities at Lake Sorell have been booked for VHW activities.

Naval Association of Australia - Tas: Proxy Alex McNeill reported on Brian Ellis' attendance at the Naval Association's national meeting held in SA.

Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association – Tas: Graeme Barnett addressed the forum for the final time, advising that APPVA are holding 75th Anniversary celebrations in October. Forum was introduced to incoming member Mark Horner.

Launceston Legacy Inc: Proxy Terry Byrne advised that Launceston has been chosen to host the National final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking awards.

Next meeting

Wednesday 26 October 14:00