

Deputy Commissioner's Consultative Forum - Tasmania
Meeting Number 49– Summary
8 Nov 2023

Present:

Luke Brown (Chair)	Deputy Commissioner TAS – Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
Barry Quinn	Returned and Services League (RSL)
Debbie Coulson (proxy)	Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAF-A)
Jacinta Leahy	Partners of Veterans Association (PVA)
Ray Williams OAM	Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Ltd (TPI)
Kevin Evorall	Launceston Legacy Inc
David Waddle	Advocacy
Neil Grierson	Senior ADF Officer (SADFO)
Mark Green	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
Anne James	Executive Officer – Department of Veterans' Affairs

Apologies:

Cathy Starling	Mates4Mates (M4M)
Peter Hodge	Hobart Legacy
John Withers	Veterans Reference Group
Kathy Turner	Open Arms
Brian Ellis	Navy Association - Australia (TAS)
Brian Harper	Vietnams Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA)

Business Arising:

Apologies and proxies noted. Members endorsed minutes from the August 2023 forum. There were no outstanding items.

Luke acknowledged and thanked Terry Roe and John Findlater for their representation of their respective organisations and the veteran community more broadly and offered his well wishes to them both moving forward.

Chair, Luke Brown opened the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Sarah Kennedy Assistant Secretary, Client Programs Branch.

Sarah provided the presentation below and discussed the interface between VHC and Aged Care services.



Presentation -
DCCF - 8 Nov 23.ppt

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Luke briefed the forum on the implementation progress of the Royal Commission Recommendations and provided an update on actions. He reminded members that the process of legislation change is lengthy and that there will be opportunities for feedback as it progresses particularly during the exposure draft and parliamentary processes. The reform is on track to meet the timelines required by the Royal Commission.

DVA Key Messages and Hot Topics

Luke advised that the recently appointed Repatriation Commissioner, Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM will be in Tasmania 20 – 22 Nov (inc).

He also requested that if information provided prior to meetings is not suitable please let know Anne know.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Mark Green reminded participants that expressions of interest are no open for the Veterans Reference Group. More information, including the application form, is available at https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/.../veterans_reference_group.

Mark advised that there have been recent announcements regards the Edward “Teddy” Sheean VC Memorial Grants Program, Cpl Cameron Baird VC MG Memorial Scholarships and The Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize.

Hobart Legacy

David Waddle representing Peter Hodge updated the forum on the success of the Legacy’s Centenary celebrations including the successful Torch Relay.

President, Peter Hodge has returned from holiday in the past week.

Launceston Legacy

Kevin Evorall advised that they too participated in the National Torch Relay and other Centenary of Legacy celebrations.

The Melbourne Cup luncheon for Widows was well attended.

Partners of Veterans Association

Jacinta Leahy advised that Clare McCarthy has been elected President in Tasmania.

Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women

Ray Williams advised that their Veterans' Stories Project is progressing well with editing underway and refilming scheduled for early next year if needed.

The TPI Assn VHW activity was very well received with a guest speaker discussing medicinal therapies and pain management for chronic pain.

Returned and Services League (RSL)

Barry Quinn updated the participants on progress to date regards capabilities and staffing for the Hub.

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on 23 to propose a new Constitution that if passed will take effect 1 Jan 2024.

A budget proposal has been submitted to support Veteran homelessness.

Defence

Neil advised that the Senior RAN and RAAF officers will be posted out in Dec 2023 with as yet unnamed replacements posted in in Jan 2024.

ADF Reserves and Employer Support awards are being held towards the end of the month with Tasmanian employers expected to do well. Neil will be representing the ADF at the presentation event.

Advocacy

David expressed the concerns of Advocates around the state in regards to the Advocates direct phone line not being operational and a general feeling that ATDP is not sustainable in the future in its current form.

Next meeting: Wednesday 14 February 2pm