



National Bosun's Call



Vol 2 No 11

Once Navy, Always Navy

December 2021



The catafalque party dismounts at the completion of a commemoration ceremony in Geraldton WA on 19 November 2021 to mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Sydney II Picture: RAN

When HMAS *Sydney* failed to return to Fremantle a major search for the ship began; Several months later on 6 February 1942 a badly damaged Carley Float containing the body of a naval rating wearing blue overalls was washed up on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. The body was recovered, and with no means of identifying the individual his remains were buried in an unmarked grave in the European cemetery there.

In 2006 the remains of the unknown sailor were exhumed by a specialist ADF team. The remains were carefully examined and biometric data and DNA samples were recorded before the sailor was reinterred, with full Naval Honours, in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Geraldton, Western Australia - the closest war cemetery to where *Sydney* was lost.

In the years since 2006 a committed team of researchers continued working hard to identify the unknown sailor, and in 2021 DNA testing was to reveal his identity beyond doubt.



The aggregate of years of research conducted by all those involved rewarded Commander Swinden with a breakthrough in proceedings. DNA testing conducted over a two year period led by Associate Professor Jeremy Austin and his team at the University of Adelaide revealed a mitochondrial DNA match. Further analysis led by Associate Professor Jodie Ward and Mrs Shelley Seddon and their team at the Australian Federal Police National DNA Program for Unidentified and Missing Persons established a Y Chromosome match. This led to identifying living individuals with the same DNA who were found to be direct relatives of S/4449 Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark.

On 19 November 2021, at a special ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial marking the 80th anniversary of *Sydney's* sinking, the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan, AO, RAN, announced that it was Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark who had finally completed his long voyage home.



President's message

WELL DONE – ONE AND ALL!

As we see the end to this challenging year draw closer, we can reflect with pride on our 2021 activities and achievements. From a national perspective, we can be particularly proud of the manner in which the NAA has maintained a meaningful presence in the lives of our members and, the wider veteran community.

As your National President, there have been very memorable opportunities to represent the NAA at a number of national commemorative events throughout the year. It is always an honour and a privilege to attend such events on your behalf and wherever possible, to advocate and promote the aims and ethos of our Association, which are so profoundly enshrined in *'naval fellowship'*!

We have seen and achieved a great deal through our Centenary Celebrations, which have recently culminated in the presentation of the NAA's very own Quick March, titled

'Once Navy, Always Navy', composed by CPO Musician Martyn Hancock CSM RAN. This has been provided by the Navy as a gift to mark our Centenary. I commend to you all the U-Tube feature on the NAA Website where you can hear and see the recording being made.

I extend to you all my heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing friendship and support. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the members of the National Executive and the National Council, and commend them on their dedication and tireless efforts in providing for the ongoing functioning and progress of the Association. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and join with you and our loved-ones in hoping and praying that 2022 will bring with it *'a fair wind and a following sea'* for us all.

Thank you!
Yours aye,
David Manolas



The Naval Association of Australia Inc **Patron In Chief:** HM The Queen of Australia.
ABN 56 653 989 978 **National Patron** His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia
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Alignment of regulations across care and support sectors

Wednesday, November 17 2021

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services

Minister for Sport

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Minister for Government Services

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Work to align regulation across the aged care, disability and veterans' care sectors will significantly improve quality and safety for participants and consumers.

The Morrison Government is committed to improving protections for Australians living in residential aged care or receiving aged care services at home, those receiving veterans' in-home care and assistance, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants, and those who receive other disability services.

The changes will make it easier for service providers and staff to work seamlessly across different types of care and support, providing greater choice of services for consumers.

A consultation paper, *Aligning regulation across aged care, disability support and veterans' care*, has been released today to inform the development of a roadmap towards better alignment.

Consumers and participants, their families and carers, workers and providers, and sector peak bodies are invited to have their say.

Similar services are provided across these sectors – approximately 36 per cent of aged care providers also operate in disability support or veterans' care – yet there are separate and overlapping regulatory requirements.

Better alignment of regulation will cut red tape and make it easier for service providers and workers to deliver the highest levels of care and support. This will be achieved while also ensuring appropriate protections for Australians receiving these services remain firmly in place.

Any regulatory changes will complement the Government's broader reform of the aged care system to ensure high quality, safe care services are delivered, that provide dignity and respect to our senior Australians.

The Government has already committed to align important aspects of regulation in the short term, such as the development of a single Code of Conduct for these sectors, and introducing consistent screening of workers. A roadmap will be developed

for medium to longer term regulatory alignment for consideration by Government.

The Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission are working together to deliver the care and support regulatory alignment reform program.

Workshops exploring regulatory alignment opportunities will be held from mid-November through to December 2021. Consultation includes opportunities to submit a written submission and/or participate in online surveys and focus groups.

For more information and to have your say as part of the consultation process, go to the [Consultation Hub](#).

More information about the alignment of regulation reform program and the consultation paper is available at the [Department of Health website](#).

Contacts

Minister Colbeck | Aaron Langmaid | 0456 889 018

Minister Reynolds | Hayley Morris | 0456 822 252

Minister Gee | Ashleigh Weidmann | 0459 966 944

From the Department of Health website

Why your views matter

Among the key deliverables is the development of a Roadmap. For the development of the Roadmap, consultations with stakeholders from across the care and support sector will take a staged approach.

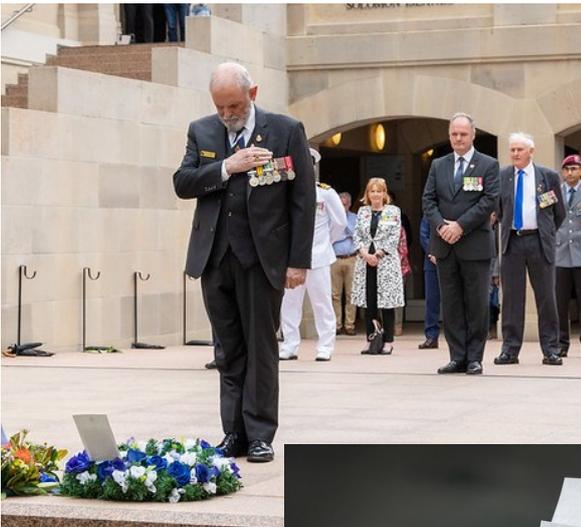
Stage 2 – Release of a consultation paper in November, consisting of an online survey, written submissions and workshops for all other stakeholders and the broader community

Stage 2 Consultation is now open

A [consultation paper](#), [supplement paper](#) and an [easy read version](#) have been released which forms the next stage of our consultation process. There are multiple ways you can participate:

- register to [participate in a workshop](#). Places are limited with registrations closing on 3 December 2021, or
- provide a written submission through either responding to a set of questions that are provided on the consultation hub or provide your own submission (no more than 1500 words). You have until 17 December to provide input
- Link: via https://healthau.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YPn7rjltFsOsOW
- To request a hard copy please email us or contact us on 02-6289 3933.

Last Post Ceremony—AWM—80th Anniversary of loss of HMAS Sydney II



Above: NAA National and ACT President David Manolas lays wreath at right

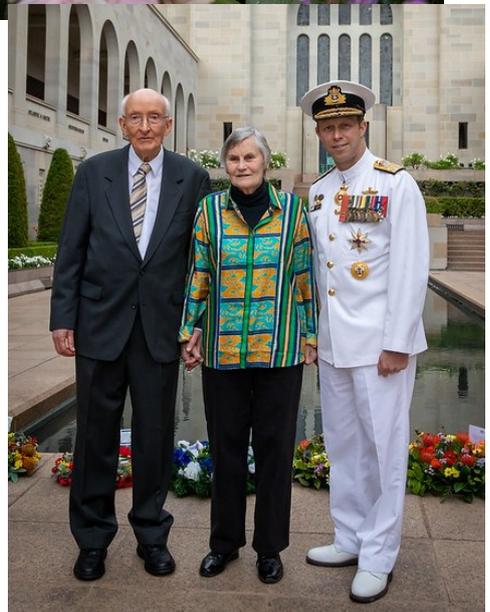


Above: Jim Quick lays wreath

Below: Dr Leigh Lehane and husband Robert lay a wreath accompanied by CMDR Greg Swinden and John Perryman

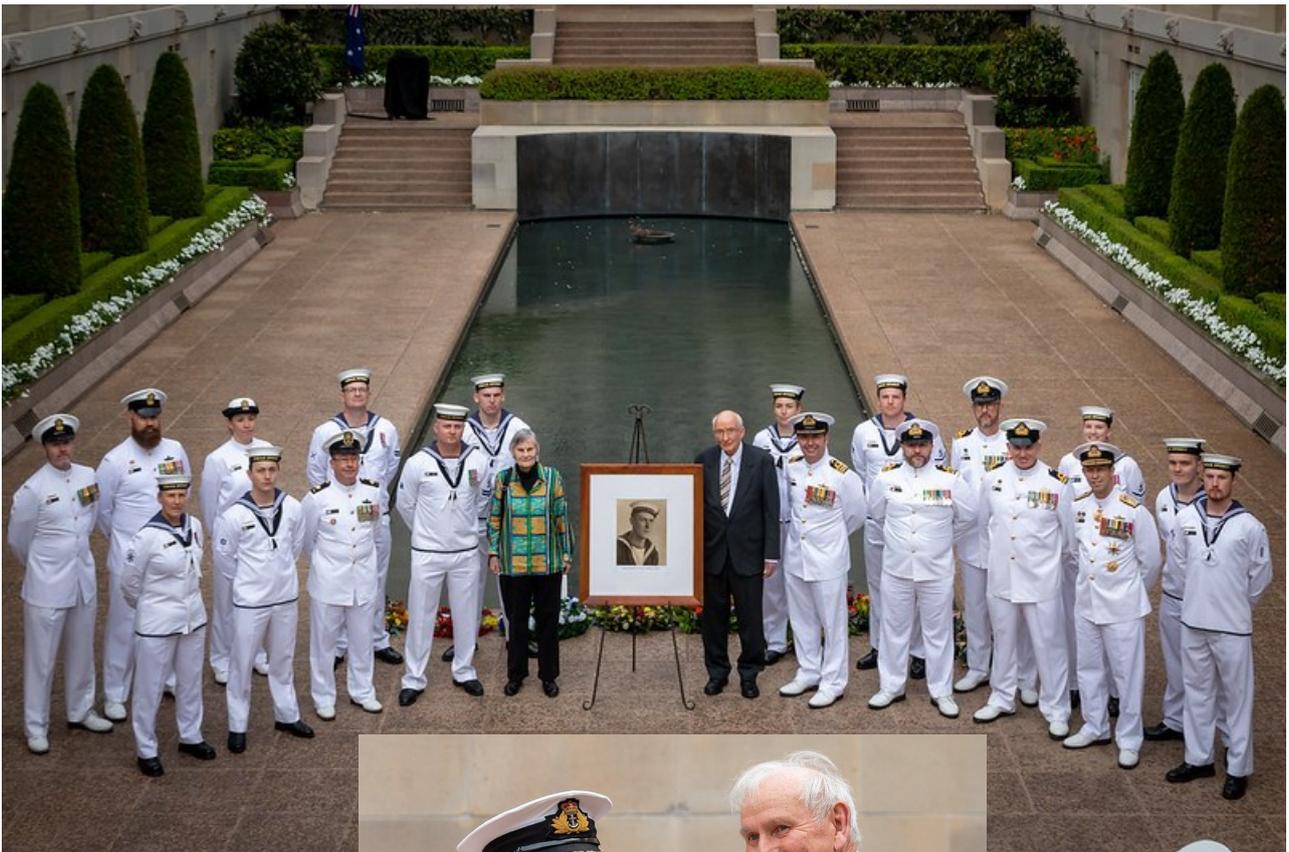


Below: AB Thomas Clark's niece Dr Leigh and Mr Robert Lehane's wreath card and they are photographed with at left Mr Matthew Anderson, Director Australian War Memorial and at right with Chief of Navy VADM Mike Noonan



Fliker Photos

HMAS Sydney Ship's Company - old and current



Above: Members of HMAS Sydney V Ships Company with AB Thomas Clark's niece Dr Leigh Lehane and husband and the Chief of Navy VADM Mike Noonan



Left: Jim Quick, President HMAS Sydney Association ACT with CO HMAS Sydney V CMDR Andrew Hough



Past Ship's Company members of HMAS Sydney III and Mrs Jill Kelly

Consultation has started: Review of Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing Programs

23 November 2021

The Nous Group and DVA are consulting with the veteran community and service providers on current arrangements for the Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing programs and how they could be improved.

Service providers can access further details of how they can contribute to the review through the **Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing Bulletins**.

DVA is contacting a random sample of clients accessing these programs to seek their involvement in the consultation process through a series of workshops to be held later in November 2021. Additionally, DVA is consulting through its established consultative arrangements.

Future stages of consultation, planned for the first half of 2022, will consider opportunities for broader engagement with veterans, their families, carers and other interested stakeholders.

The information on this website will be updated as the review progresses.

Background

In the 2021-22 Budget DVA received funding to undertake a comprehensive review of veterans' care and support programs.

The review of the Veterans' Home Care (VHC) and Community Nursing Programs (the Review), as DVA's main care and support programs, has now commenced.

DVA has engaged the Nous Group, an independent consulting company, to review these programs and their related arrangements.

The Review will identify options for possible reforms to ensure that these programs remain client

-focused, and the key components are modernised. These options will be considered in the context of current aged care reforms, and ensuring the veteran community continues to have access to high quality care and support services into the future.

The VHC and Community Nursing Programs have been in place for a long time. The Review will determine how they could be improved to remain fit-for-purpose and deliver on their objectives. The Nous Group will review these programs, and provide DVA with possible future options.

The Review will focus on:

- how we can ensure that care providers choose to deliver services to the veteran community. This will include considering whether the set fees are competitive in the current market and identifying opportunities to minimise service provider administration costs.
- whether the programs deliver services aligned with need and contemporary service delivery.
- opportunities to create efficiencies for providers through harmonising the VHC and Community Nursing Programs.

The Review:

- aligns with the Government's broader agenda to reform aged care, including in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
- advances the Government's broader commitment to increase support for older Australians to remain living at home.
- supports DVA's priority to improve the health and wellbeing of veterans.

Review of veterans' care and support programs _ Advice to all DVA Community Nursing Staff

The 2021 Budget provided funding for DVA to conduct a comprehensive review of veterans' care and support programs. Veterans' Home Care (VHC) and Community Nursing (CN) programs are the primary focus of the Review, though some related arrangements may also be considered to ensure all care and support services for veterans in the home are understood.

The need for a Review

While the VHC and CN programs are well-established, the current care and support market and policy environment in which home care services are delivered is changing, together with the needs and expectations of the veteran and wider community. This Review is an important opportunity to reflect on current program administration, pricing and structures and ensure the service mod-

el is shaped by DVA clients' priorities and provider market dynamics.

The Review will allow us to investigate feedback from some providers that some DVA fees are below market rates, or that fee schedules are overly complex, so that we can ensure the sustainability of services to DVA clients in the future. The Review will consider options to align with the broader reforms across the care and support sector, in particular in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The Review will be conducted over 2021-22 and provide DVA with options to consider for reform of the VHC and CN programs.

DVA Community Nursing Bulletin No 33

Extract from the Introductory Defence Briefing to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

The AIHW’s *National suicide monitoring of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel* report provides annual updates to information on the level of suicide among serving and ex-serving ADF personnel with at least one day of ADF service since 2001.

The 2020 report outlined suicide rates for the period 2002 to 2018 for each service group (serving full-time, reserve and ex-serving) and compared with rates for the Australian population. The majority of suicides in serving and ex-serving ADF personnel were among males, reflecting the fact that the study population is predominantly male.

□ **Comparison of service groups:** The suicide rate for ex-serving males between 2002 and 2018 was 28 per 100,000, which was higher than the rates for serving (11 per 100,000) and reserve males (12 per 100,000). The rate for ex-serving males was also higher than the rate for ex-serving females, which was 16 per 100,000 over the same period.

□ **Australian population comparison:** The suicide rates for serving and reserve males were both lower than Australian males in the same age ranges over the period 2002 to 2018. The rates for ex-serving males and ex-serving females were both higher than in the Australian population over the same period.

Due to the small number of deaths by suicide among females across the ADF service status groups it was only possible to present the suicide

rate for ex-serving females. The suicide rates for 2002 to 2018 are shown in Image 02.

AIHW reported that the age-adjusted rate of suicide for the period 2002 to 2018 compared to the Australian community was:

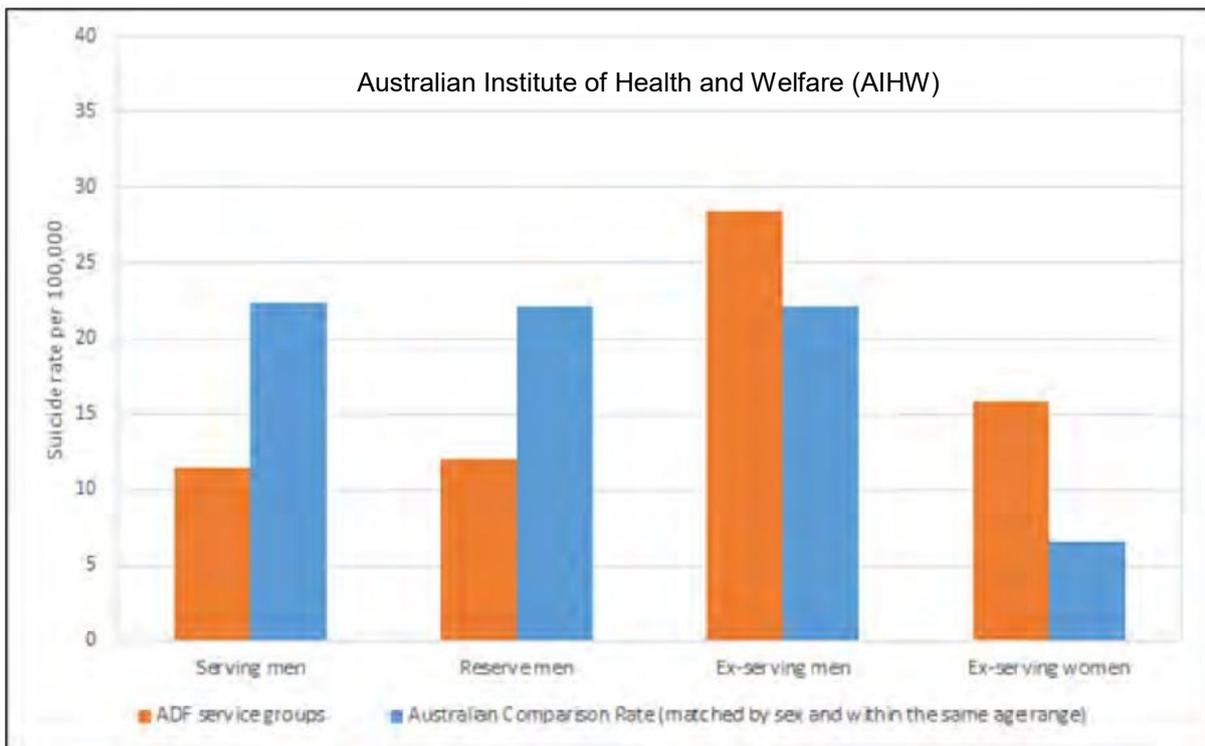
- 50 per cent lower for male permanent serving ADF members
- 49 per cent lower for males in the reserve
- 21 per cent higher for ex-serving males
- 127 per cent (or 2.27 times) higher for ex-serving females.

AIHW did not provide rates for full-time serving or reserve females due to small numbers being insufficient to provide statistically robust rates.

The AIHW report also found that ex-serving males who voluntarily separate from the ADF have a suicide rate similar to that of the Australian population. The rate of suicide in ex-serving males however, was higher for those who separate from the ADF for medical or other involuntary reasons.

AIHW’s 2020 update provided statistics on suicide up until 2018. The Defence Suicide Database contains full-time serving ADF members who are confirmed or suspected (coroner’s report not received) to have died by suicide. Since 2018, the number of full-time serving ADF members who are suspected or confirmed to have died by suicide in:

- 2019 was six
- 2020 was nine, and
- 2021 was six as at 17 August 2021.



Suicide rates (per 100,000 population) for 2002-2018, ADF service groups, males and females, compared with Australian population (matched by sex and within the same age range). Based on AIHW data [Table S1.1](#) from *National suicide monitoring of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel*.

Exercise New Horizon



Indonesian navy ships KRI Gusti Ngurah Rai in KRI Malahayati's wake and HMAS Anzac sail in company during Exercise New Horizon. Photo: Leading Seaman Leo Baumgartner

HMAS *Anzac* trained with two Indonesian Navy ships this month during Exercise New Horizon, a key biennial maritime high-end warfare engagement.

The exercise was conducted in the waters off Surabaya, Indonesia, as the final international activity of Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE21).

Anzac's navigating officer Lieutenant Dean Ryan said New Horizon was a great opportunity to train with Indonesia.

"It allowed the bridge and operations room teams to practise various warfare and navigational exercises, all of which greatly improved our interoperability with our nearest partner nation," Lieutenant Ryan said. "This exercise has been one of the highlights of 2021 for me professionally."

New Horizon focused on building anti-surface warfare skills and increasing interoperability between the two navies.

Anzac joined the Indonesian Navy Ships KRI *Gusti Ngurah Rai* and KRI *Malahayati* in officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres, helicopter operations, tactical manoeuvring and anti-surface warfare serials.

A highlight was the surface gunnery practice, where the three ships formed a surface action group and simultaneously engaged a target with their main guns.

In boarding serials, the ships were unable to undertake actual boarding because of COVID-19 restrictions, however, each unit was able to observe the other and benefited from the practice.

"It was such a great opportunity to work with the Indonesian Navy, and their small boat driving skills were impressive," Lieutenant Ryan said.

The exercise ended with a sail-past at close quarters and an exchange of ceremonial piping before *Anzac* commenced her journey through the Lombok Strait on her way home. (*Ships' companies can be seen lining the upper deck*)

Commander IPE21 Commodore Mal Wise said the activity was a fitting end to the IPE deployment, which included several virtual engagements between Australian and Indonesian officials.

"New Horizon provided *Anzac's* ship's company an opportunity to build practical naval cooperation with one of Australia's most trusted security partners, and helped solidify our commitment to work together in promoting peace and stability in our region," Commodore Wise said.

Editor's note

The photograph above was taken during the sail past reported above and reminds me of my days of OOW manoeuvres when a sail past was initiated by the order to execute Formation Foxtrot Port/Starboard,

Extract from MTP 1(D), Vol. II

FORM F PORT/STBD . . . REVERSE THE ORDER OF SHIPS IN COLUMN in succession from the rear. Ships are to sheer out on the side indicated. One or two numerals may be added to indicate speed of all ships except the rear ship. The rear ship automatically becomes the Guide and increases speed to one knot less than stationing speed, passing the ships ahead of her on the side indicated. Other ships reduce speed to seven knots or as indicated. At the appropriate time, each ship in succession from the rear is to increase speed and take station in the wake of the ship which was previously next astern to her

HMAS Stirling extensions

The base provides services such as ship repairs, logistics, research facilities and training. More than 70 other units and functions are based at the island, including the Submarine Training and Systems Centre, a helicopter support facility, Defence Communications Station – Perth and Joint Logistic Units – West.

Navy’s second and final Supply-class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ship HMAS *Stalwart* will replace HMAS *Sirius* at Garden Island. The first Arafura-class offshore patrol vessel, HMAS *Arafura*, will also call the base home, along with Navy’s new Hunter-class frigates.

The works to support these new ships have begun, including a 156m extension to the existing armaments wharf to support the loading of explosive ordnance on to ships. It is due for completion midway through this year.

New accommodation, logistics, maintenance and training facilities are also being built to support the Arafura-class vessels.

Works to support the Hunter-class frigates should start in the middle of the decade, comprising upgrades and extensions to existing wharves and structures, along with additional accommodation and training facilities.

“From an environmental perspective, I am also pleased to say that all our development plans will be focused on the already built environment as we fill in work space,” Captain Ainsley Morthorpe (CO *Stirling*) said.

“This will allow Defence and Navy to not only develop a modern and exciting 21st century naval base, but also protect the stunning natural environment which is a jewel of Cockburn Sound, of which I am constantly amazed and proud to be a steward of. While I am unlikely to personally enjoy the combined benefits of the final outcome, it will be a dynamic, inspiring and modern workplace for someone like my daughter, who is also in the Navy, to serve in.”



HMAS Stirling and Fleet Base West in Western Australia. Photo: CPOIS Damian Pawlenko

We support those who serve or have served in defence of our nation, and their families.

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families
Counselling
1800 011 046

SAFE ZONE SUPPORT
FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

Defence Family Helpline
1800 624 608

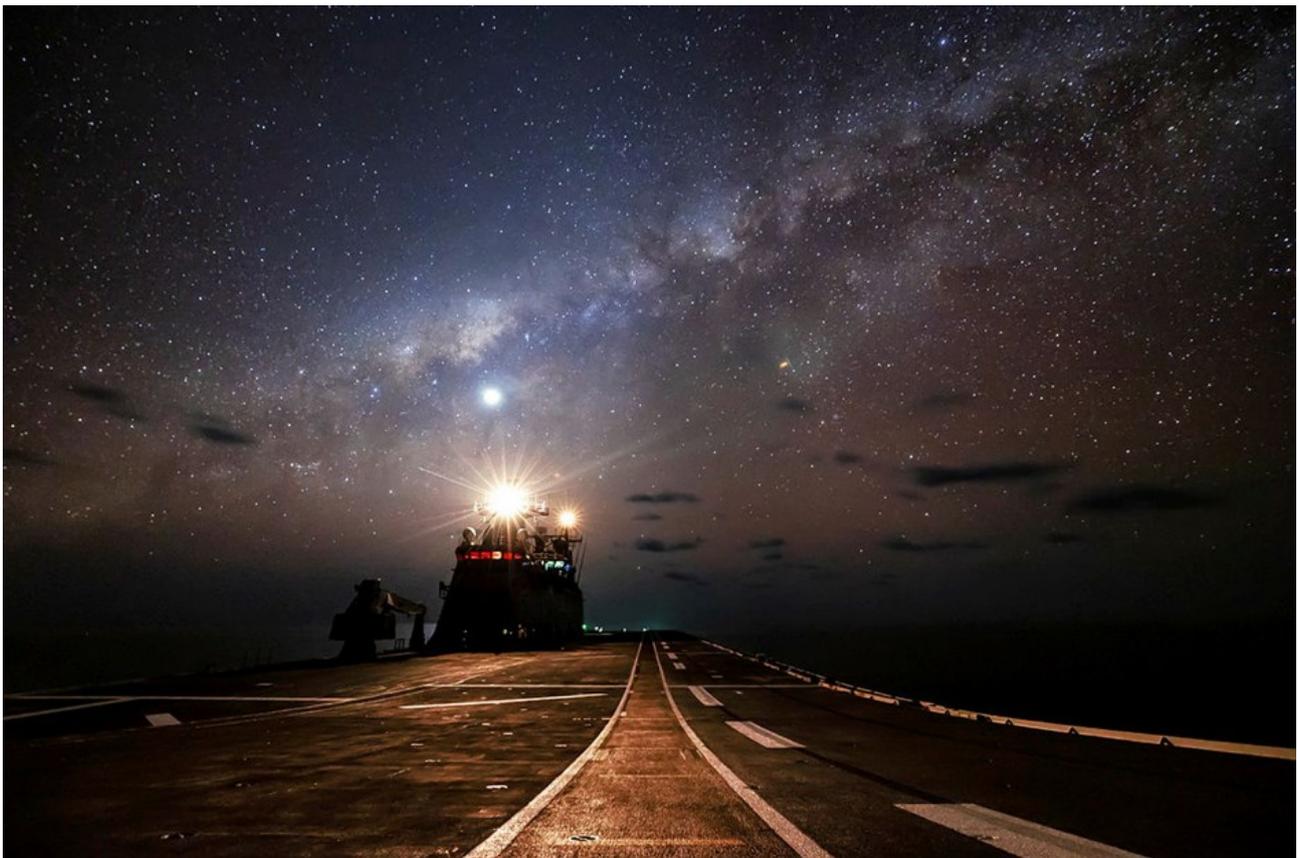
Defence All-hours Support Line
1800 628 036

Sea Time



(l-r) USS Lake Champlain, HMAS Sirius and USS Stockdale conduct a replenishment at sea during Exercise Malabar, in the Indian Ocean. Photo LSIS Ernesto Sanchez

Australia has joined key partners India, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom for the Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Indo-Pacific



HMAS Canberra under the Milky Way while sailing back to Australian waters after the successful completion of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21. Photo POIS Christopher Szumlanski

Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21 (IPE21) is Australia's flagship regional engagement activity, reinforcing Australia's strong and enduring partnerships in Southeast Asia. Centred on a maritime task group, IPE21 involves HMA Ships Canberra and Anzac

Pair aboard at start and end of ship's service

Two sailors in HMAS *Sirius* on the ship's final deployment before being decommissioned were part of the ship's commissioning crew in 2006.

Leading Seamen Boatswain's Mate Terance Wilson-Mitchell and Leading Seaman Maritime Logistics – Chef Esler Cartledge are on board for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021.

Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell, who joined the Navy in 2004, said he doesn't recall too much about his first posting to *Sirius*, but could remember the sense of occasion of the commissioning.

"It was a daunting experience to bring a brand new ship online. I was an able seaman back then, and most of the crew were ex-*Westralia*, so we were a pretty tight group," Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell said.

Leading Seaman Cartledge has more vivid memories of her first time aboard.

"I actually met my partner on this ship 15 years ago, and we're still together," Leading Seaman Cartledge said.

"I'd come off a lot of large ships, so this was my first experience with a smaller crew, and cooking for a smaller crew was a well-earned rest."

Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell posted to *Sirius* again in 2010, then posted to HMA Ships *Stirling*, *Perth*, *Ballarat* and *Cerberus* before posting back to *Sirius*.

But he reckons *Sirius* is still very much the same ship.

"Things haven't changed much, not in any real big way – perhaps apart from me being older – but it's the same kind of tight-knit crew. Really, it's just life at sea," Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell said.

Commanding Officer *Sirius* Commander Christopher Doherty recognised the importance of having the kind of experience that Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell and Leading Seaman Cartledge bring to the crew.

"It's exceptionally important for us to have this level of experience and knowledge in our ship's systems

here in *Sirius*. They are valued members of our crew who we couldn't do without," Commander Doherty said.

"Leading Seaman Cartledge is a consummate professional in the galley.

"She is an experienced sailor, who is able to meet every challenge thrown at her.

"She is also our ship's leading seaman, meaning that she is one of my principal advisers on matters affecting the junior sailors.

"In that role, she has an unwavering commitment to them and an exceptional ethical and moral compass to help deal with issues.

"The level of experience that Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell has is excellent and it's a real opportunity for the young sailors that he works with to learn from him."

It's the experiences gained in the Navy that Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell reflects most fondly on, with the travel that life at sea has afforded him a highlight of his career.

"I like the travel – going to weird and wonderful places – and I've been to places I'd never considered even going," Leading Seamen Wilson-Mitchell said.

Leading Seamen Cartledge joined the Navy in 2001. She said the opportunity to go back to HMAS *Stirling* and decommission *Sirius* would be a career high point.

"It's a really proud moment to be able to do that, and when I come back into Fleet Base West for the last time, that'll be a really proud moment," Leading Seamen Cartledge said.

"I don't think it's changed, but I've changed – I've grown up a lot.

"She's a little bit rustier, but everything else is the same."

By Captain Peter March



LS Esler Cartledge in the galley and LS Terance Wilson-Mitchell on the port bridge wing on board HMAS *Sirius* during Indo-Pacific Endeavour 21.

Photos: LS Sittichai Sakonpoonpol

Defence has introduced GPS into the system

“Gender perspective” is commonly misunderstood, according to the Director Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Captain Jennifer Macklin.

“Armed conflicts and natural disasters are inherently gendered crises. While men, women, boys and girls may share similar experiences, they are exposed to different risks and threats, and demonstrate different vulnerabilities and needs,” she said.

“Our response must demonstrate a sound understanding of these differences to be effective – that is, we must have a gender perspective.”

Operating as a directorate in the Joint Support Services Division since November 2020, GPS is responsible for Defence’s contribution to Australia’s whole-of-government National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2021-2031.

The plan has four outcomes to be achieved over the next decade: to support female participation and needs in peace processes; reduce sexual and gender-based violence; support resilience, crisis, security, law and justice efforts; and demonstrate leadership and accountability for the WPS agenda.

Captain Macklin said Defence recognised that women provided a unique perspective in the planning and conduct of military operations, as well as an important contribution to conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building efforts.

“It is critical to understand the human terrain in an area of operations; what the gender relations are, where gender inequality exists and how it will manifest through social and cultural norms,” she said.

“Understanding the pattern of life and its inherent vulnerabilities must shape our response.”

To operationalise the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and deliver on Australia’s National Action Plan, Defence developed the GPS Mandate (2020-2030).

The mandate articulates Defence’s contribution to the National Action Plan along six lines of effort: policy and doctrine; education and training; personnel; mission readiness and effectiveness; international engagement; and governance and reporting.

With a commitment to social justice and a long involvement in community and advocacy groups before joining the Navy, Captain Macklin brings passion to her role.

“I have worked for a number of organisations advocating for equality and inclusion and seen first-hand



Support Services Division Brigadier Nicole Longley with Gender, Peace and Security Director Captain (RAN) Jennifer Macklin.

Photo: Kym Smith

how ignorance, prejudice and discrimination can lead to violence,” she said.

“Having a commitment to inclusion, respect for human rights and a pluralistic mindset is at the heart of a healthy, resilient society.”

A priority for the GPS directorate is education and training. Captain Macklin said she would like to see more people participate in the Gender Focal Point workshop.

The course provides foundational skills and knowledge for the application of gender perspective in any domain.

“Gender focal points play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in Defence. Whether you are in an ADF or APS role, you can apply a gender perspective in your work,” Captain Macklin said.

“By simply asking ‘What are the gender considerations here? How does this decision or plan impact men, women, boys and girls differently?’ you can have a significant impact on policy, planning and engagement outcomes.”

Elimination of Violence against women

Defence’s work in reducing gender-based violence and providing support to victims was discussed at a virtual seminar on November 25. The seminar coincided with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Speakers included Melissa Elfverson, of the Domestic Violence Crisis Centre, the manager of Defence’s Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Program Myra Keating and head of ADF Gender Peace and Security Directorate Captain Jennifer Macklin.

Defence GPS

This year's theme was "Orange the world: End violence against women now!"

Captain Macklin said there were many links between the day and recognising that gender was central to understanding conflict-affected, disaster and fragile settings.

"It mustn't be an afterthought," Captain Macklin said.

"It is absolutely central to the ADF response, in terms of operational planning and mission effectiveness.

"We need to understand the human terrain; where gender inequality exists and how it will manifest through social and cultural norms. Understanding the pattern of life and its inherent vulnerabilities must shape our response."

Since 1981, women's rights activists have observed November 25 as a day to take a stand against gender-based violence.

The date honoured the Mirabal sisters, Dominican political activists murdered on the orders of the country's dictator, Rafael Trujillo, in 1960.

In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, aiming to eradicate violence against women and girls worldwide.

In 2000, the UN General Assembly designated November 25 as the International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Defence has supported the day since 2019 and Captain Macklin's directorate, supported by Service Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points, aims to ensure ADF personnel deployed to fragile, disaster and conflict-affected environments are educated on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security agenda and given tools to help them apply a gender perspective.

An event was live streamed from Canberra on November 25 and information on attendance (virtual or in-person) was available via the [Defence intranet site](#).

For ADF members affected by family and domestic violence, you can get help from the following:

- Defence Member and Family Support, Joint Health Command, and through your respective service chaplains.
- The Defence Member and Family Helpline – for advice, intervention and referral for personnel and their families dealing with family and domestic violence – 1800 624 608.
- The Employee Assistance Program helpline – a 24/7 counselling service for Defence APS, cadets and reservists and their immediate family – 1300 687 327.

DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section
Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:
health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit:
www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

Defence GPS

- Converge International's DEDJTR Family Violence Support Helpline – 1300 545 232 (during business hours).
- SeMPRO for immediate and confidential support, information, and advice to current and ex-serving Defence personnel and their families who have been impacted by sexual misconduct – 1800 736 776 (1800 SeMPRO) 24/7.
- 1800RESPECT is the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service.

By Leading Seaman Kylie Jagiello

Note

The second part of this article was placed in the Defence website on 24 November 2021 and has been put into the past tense by the Editor.



SBLT Shae Straw-McMahon and POCSO Hamish Love stand at ease on the flight deck as HMAS Brisbane enters the port of Busan in South Korea during a Regional Presence Deployment.

Photo; LSIS Daniel Goodman 17 Oct 21

