



National Bosun's Call



Vol 2 No 4

Once Navy, Always Navy

May 2021



Above:
National President David Manolas lays the NAA Wreath at the national ANZAC Day Memorial Service at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra with National President of the Air Force Association Group Captain Carl Schiller OAM CSM Rtd



Left:
National President NAA lays a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony in the AWM on 28 April remembering POWRAN CK Maude Hebson. The WRANS celebrated the 80th Anniversary of its formation also that day. (See pages 10 and 11)



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Suicide

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Last updated:

28 April 2021

On 19 April 2021, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced the Government will recommend to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The Royal Commission is expected to examine the systemic issues and any common themes and past deaths by suicide of Australian Defence Force members and veterans and the experience of members and veterans who may continue to be at risk of suicide.

This includes all aspects of service in the Australian Defence Force and the experience of those transitioning; the availability and quality of health and support services; pre-service and post-service issues for members and veterans; members' and veterans' social and family contexts, such as family breakdown, as well as housing and employment issues for members and veterans.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, the Hon Darren Chester MP, is leading a public consultation process to inform the Terms of Reference.

The Royal Commission will have the full range of compulsory powers available to it such as to summon witnesses and hold public hearings, take evidence and compel the production of documents and witness statements.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs will participate fully in the process while maintaining the important supports and services to the veteran community.

Information about the Royal Commission, including the Terms of Reference, will continue to be updated on this website.

The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans

October 2017

Last updated: 4 March 2020

Suicide in the serving and ex-service community

Suicide is an issue that affects all Australians. It is the leading cause of death for Australians aged 15 to 44, with around 8 people dying by suicide a day. Current and former members of the ADF, and their families, are not immune to this.

Suicide prevention and support to those families who have been affected by the tragedy of suicide is a very high priority for the Australian Government. This is why in August 2016, the Government tasked the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) to specifically look at suicide prevention services for current and former members of the ADF, and their families.

Running concurrently to the Senate Inquiry's investigations, the NMHC found that suicide is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted service response to ensure veterans have access to the support they need, at the right time. As a result, the Government has committed to action in four key areas to help prevent suicide among Australia's current and former serving personnel and their families:

1. Improving suicide prevention and mental health support for current serving ADF members, veterans and their families;
2. Improving the transition process for ADF members moving from military life into post-service civilian life and provide targeted support to families;
3. Improving family support through engagement of families and family sensitive practice; and
4. Transforming the Department of Veterans' Affairs systems, processes and organisational culture to better respond to the needs of Australia's veterans and their families.

In considering the findings and recommendations of the Senate Inquiry Report, the Government has committed to continued and further action across each of these four target areas.

The Government is also committing \$31 million to a package of five new initiatives that will further support the mental health of current and ADF members, and their families. These measures include:

- * \$16.1 million over four years for a new Veteran Payment for veterans with mental health conditions;

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Patron In Chief:

HM The Queen of Australia.

National Patron

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia

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Joint Media release — Establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations

Monday 19 April 2021

The death of any Australian Defence Force member or veteran is one death too many and a tragedy that is deeply felt by all Australians. Tragically, and heartbreakingly, this includes death by suicide.

Recognising this, the Government will take the step of recommending to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide, following a period of consultation on draft Terms of Reference, with the relevant community and state and territory governments.

The Royal Commission will complement the Government's existing initiative to establish a permanent National Commission to proactively deal with future issues, including taking on other recommendations of a Royal Commission.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Royal Commission will be set up after listening to community calls for a national inquiry focusing on the systemic issues faced by Australian Defence Force members and veterans that too often results in their loss of life to suicide.

"Suicide prevention is a key priority for the Federal Government," the Prime Minister said.

"We have always recognised that the rate of suicide of Australian Defence Force members and veterans is unacceptably high," the Prime Minister said.

"In recognising the sacrifices made by our serving and former members and their families on behalf of the nation, we owe it to members, veterans and their families to continue to take action."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Royal Commission was another step in our efforts to build confidence, trust and hope for current and future veterans and their families that they will be supported.

"This will provide an opportunity for us all to reset, further increase our understanding of this issue, and unite the Parliament, the ex-service community, and the families who have been affected by suicide," Minister Chester said.

"As a nation we take great pride in the men and women who have served our nation in uniform, and as a Government we have committed to help them with any mental or physical issues that are a result of that service."

The Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash said the Attorney-General's Department will provide administrative support to the Royal Commission.

"Reducing lives lost to suicide is a priority for the Morrison Government."

"Our aim for this Royal Commission is that it will shed light on the critical steps we need to take so that we can reduce these heartbreaking cases of suicide."

Crucially, the Royal Commission will not defer, delay or limit, in any way, any proposed or announced policy, legislation or regulation that we are currently implementing.

The Government intends that the Royal Commission and the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention will be established together and operate in a complementary way to achieve long-term change.

The Royal Commission will look at past deaths by suicide (including suspected suicides and lived experience of suicide risks) from a systemic point of view, while the National Commissioner will have a forward-looking role, including overseeing the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

The National Commissioner Bill currently before the Parliament will be amended to ensure their work complements the work of the Royal Commission and examines deaths by suicide in the defence and veteran community that occur after the Royal Commission has handed down their final report.

Given the complex issues for consideration, and the importance of hearing from Australian Defence Force members, veterans and their families, the Government envisages that three Commissioners will be needed to lead the inquiry. Consultation is underway to appoint these candidates.

Minister Chester will lead a public consultation process on the draft Terms of Reference and the Prime Minister will write to First Ministers inviting their contributions to the draft Terms of Reference with the view of a joint Commonwealth-State Royal Commission.

The Federal Government is committed to ensuring all the systems of support for our veterans and their families are working together, and importantly that when someone who may be struggling reaches out for help, which we are there to support them.

Media contacts

Prime Minister's Press Office: (02) 6277 7744

Minister Chester's office: C. Szigeti, 0455 739 810

Attorney-General's office: G. Creighton, 0438 815 302

Commissioning of HMAS Supply (II), Garden Island, Sydney



10 April 2021

Governor General's address at the ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen.

It's a great delight for Linda and me to be with you this morning with the Navy family to bring into service our newest warship into the Royal Australian Navy.

Can I begin by thanking Uncle Brendan for his very warm Welcome to Country, and to pass on my acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land, the Gadigal People, and to pay my respects to their Elders past and present, particularly recognising the men and women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background for their service in the past and their service today in the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Force.

Before I begin my remarks about HMAS *Supply* could I join with the Fleet Commander in acknowledging the passing yesterday of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

In my Address to the Nation last night I said that it was a sad and historic day. Our thoughts are with Her Majesty, The Queen and her family who have lost a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

As we mourn, we should also give thanks for HRH's lifetime of service, devotion and commitment.

And pertinent or relevant to today is his service in the Royal Navy – including during the Second World War when he was mentioned in dispatches while a young sub-Lieutenant on-board HMS *Valiant*.

(Continued on page 5)



HMAS Supply CO CAPT Ben Hissink receives the commissioning ensign from Commander of the Australian Fleet, RADM Mark Hammond, AM



Commissioning of HMAS Supply (II), Garden Island, Sydney (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

In the future as HMAS *Supply* (II) celebrates its commissioning day, perhaps HRH's example of service would be a fitting inclusion for all to consider.

Today is a momentous day for the crew of HMAS *Supply* (II), the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Force.

The commissioning of a new ship not only adds to Australia's Defence capability but is also a cause for celebration – a 'great Navy Day'.

Personally, I am delighted to see that the Navy's experience with the Cantabria Class ship ESPS Cantabria in 2013 has led to today's event. I recall spending time on ESPS Cantabria with her CO, CMDR Jose Nieto, in Gladstone during TALISMAN SABRE 13 and being impressed with what she offered to the logistic support of the fleet.

For HMAS *Supply* (II) to be the Navy's newest ship is especially significant for many reasons.

Supply – the name and the ship – is steeped in history, taking her name from the first *Supply* to arrive in these very waters in 1788. As the commissioning crew you will be mindful of her predecessor's achievements.

In 1969, in a first for an RAN replenishment ship, *Supply* was awarded the prestigious Duke of Gloucester Cup for being deemed the RAN unit displaying the highest level of overall proficiency. There is no pressure on you, Ben [Captain Ben Hissink RAN, Commanding Officer, HMAS *Supply* (II)]!

The ship supported Royal New Zealand Navy ships during the observations of the French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

And in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Tracy which hit Darwin in the early hours of Christmas Day 1974, she was one of several RAN ships that steamed at short notice as part of relief operations.

Indeed, HMAS *Supply* (I) strengthened the shield over decades of service conducting 3401 under-way replenishments at sea during her lifetime.

As the commissioning crew of HMAS *Supply* (II), I congratulate you for returning *Supply* to the fleet.

One ship, many stories.

The question now is, 'What history will you write?'

Last week, at the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force event in Canberra, I said that it is the

people, not the equipment, that have built the RAAF. The same is so very true of the Royal Australian Navy. It is a Service built on courage, respect, integrity and excellence.

I have read the Commanding Officer's vision for the crew of his ship. I quote: 'To wake up each morning inspired, to work in a trusted team and to go home fulfilled at the end of each day.' I commend Captain Hissink on this vision and encourage you to do whatever it takes to achieve it – to make the Navy, the ADF and Australia proud.

The second note from last week's event for the RAAF – as I handed over the new Queen's Colour to the ensign, I said to him that this Colour is a sign of Her Majesty's trust in your Service, not to be taken lightly. Similarly today, as the Commissioning pennant is flown, we are saying the nation has trust in you and places its trust in you. We know you that will return that trust.

Today, in particular, can I also acknowledge previous crew members of *Supply* who are with us for part of this ceremony. We greatly value and respect your service. Thank you for what you have done for the proud traditions of the Royal Australian Navy.

I congratulate all on parade today and thank all those here at the Base who helped arrange this event.

I also acknowledge the many and varied contributions of those in uniform, the Australian Public

Service, and those in Defence industry including our shipbuilders Navantia, for their contribution to the introduction into service of this first class vessel.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the families of the crew of HMAS *Supply* (II) for the support you have provided for our Navy personnel. You are as much a part of today's Commissioning as they are. Indeed, Australia's new warship belongs to you and the Australian people.

To the crew and all involved in HMAS *Supply* (II) – enjoy today's celebration, remember it, and take note of the esteem in which this day is held as is your Service.

On behalf of all Australians and as your Commander-in-Chief, congratulations!

It is a great Navy day.

Fair winds and following seas.

Bravo Zulu.



Commissioning of HMAS Supply (II), Garden Island, Sydney (cont)



Specifications

Displacement	19,500 tonnes
Length	173.9 metres
Beam	23 metres
Draught	8 metres
Performance	
Speed	20 knots (maximum)
Range	11,000 kilometres at 13 knots
Capacity	8200 cubic metres of marine diesel fuel, 1400 cubic metres of fresh water, 270 tonnes of ammunition, 470 tonnes of provisions, 1450 cubic metres of JP5 jet fuel
Propulsion	
Machinery	2 x MAN 18V 32/40 main engines 4 x MAN 7L21/31 generator sets
Armament	
Helicopters	1 x helicopter



HMAS *Arunta* awarded the Gloucester Cup



On 19 April 2021, the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) presented the Duke of Gloucester Cup for 2020 to HMAS *Arunta* Commanding Officer, Commander Anthony Nagle, CSC, and ship's company.

The ceremony, which included a Royal Guard drawn from *Arunta* personnel, took place on

Parkes Wharf at Fleet Base West in front of a small crowd which included Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Mark Hammond AM, HMAS *Stirling* Commanding Officer, Captain Gary Lawton RAN, and previous *Arunta* Commanding Officer, Captain Troy Duggan RAN.

Photo: LSIS Richard Cordell

DVA Counselling package for families

Counselling provided through the Family Support Package is to help your family manage challenging life situations.

The types of counselling provided include:

- * resilience training
- * grief and loss counselling
- * drug and alcohol counselling
- * personal and relationship counselling
- * parenting skills and support counselling
- * mental health first aid training
- * financial counselling and financial management support; and
- * counselling for gambling

This counselling is in addition to services offered by Open Arms - Veteran & Families Counselling.

Who can receive it

To access counselling for a family member, you must:

- * have undertaken warlike service on or after 1 July 2004
- * be actively participating in an approved Rehabilitation Program

- * be eligible for or getting Incapacity Payments; and
- * your family has a need for counselling support

How much you can receive

Your family can have up to four counselling sessions a year for five years while you are participating in rehabilitation.

How you access

You must be participating in an approved rehabilitation program and your family must have a need for counselling to help you to achieve your rehabilitation goals.

To apply for counselling you will need to talk with your rehabilitation provider.

What to tell us

If anything changes that could affect your entitlements, you need to let us know within 14 days (or 28 days if you receive the Remote Area Allowance or live overseas).

You need to tell us if you:

- * become unwell and cannot participate in the rehabilitation program; or
- * have ceased or closed your rehabilitation plan.

Vale
Philip Mountbatten
 HRH the Duke of Edinburgh
 10 Jun 1921—9 April 2021
 Life Member NAA 1956 to 2021

Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark was born on the Greek island of Corfu on 10 June 1921, the only son and fifth and final child of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg. He was a prince of both Greece and Denmark by virtue of his patrilineal descent from King George I of Greece and King Christian IX of Denmark, and he was from birth in the line of succession to both thrones.

Philip was educated at Gordonstoun school in Scotland. After leaving Gordonstoun in early 1939, Philip completed a term as a cadet at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, then repatriated to Greece. He returned to Britain in September to resume training for the Royal Navy. He graduated from Dartmouth the next year as the best cadet in his course. During the Second World War, he continued to serve in the British forces. Philip was appointed as a midshipman in January 1940. He spent four months on the battleship HMS *Ramillies*, protecting convoys of the Australian Expeditionary Force in the Indian Ocean, followed by shorter postings, HMS *Kent*, on HMS *Shropshire*, and in British Ceylon. After the invasion of Greece by Italy in October 1940, he was transferred from the Indian Ocean to the battleship HMS *Valiant* in the Mediterranean Fleet.

On 1 February 1941, Philip was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant after a series of courses at Ports-



mouth, in which he gained the top grade in four out of five sections of the qualifying examination. Among other engagements, he was involved in the battle of Crete, and was mentioned in dispatches for his service during the battle of Cape Matapan, in which he controlled the battleship's searchlights. In October 1942 he was appointed first lieutenant of the destroyer HMS *Wallace*, which was involved in convoy escort tasks on the east coast of Britain, as well as the Allied invasion of Sicily. In 1944, he joined the new destroyer, HMS *Whelp*, part of the 27th Destroyer Flotilla in the British Pacific Fleet. He was present in Tokyo Bay when the instrument of Japanese surrender was signed.

Philip returned to the United Kingdom on *Whelp* in January 1946, and was posted as an instructor at HMS *Royal Arthur*, the Petty Officers' School in Corsham, Wiltshire.

Princess Elizabeth and Philip were married on 20 November 1947. After their honeymoon Philip returned to the navy at first in a desk job at the Admiralty and later on a staff course at the Naval Staff College, Greenwich. From 1949, he was stationed in Malta after being posted as the first lieutenant of the destroyer HMS *Chequers*, the lead ship of the 1st Destroyer Flotilla in the Mediterranean Fleet. On 16 July 1950, he was promoted to lieutenant commander and given command of the frigate HMS *Magpie*. On 30 June 1952, Philip was promoted to commander, though his active naval career had ended in July 1951.

Edited text from Wikipedia

Top photographer: Alan Warren, 1992

*Left:
HMS Magpie entering
Grand Harbour Malta*



Veterans' pensions set to increase

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Saturday, 20 March 2021

VETERANS, their partners, war widows and widowers will benefit from an increase to their pensions in line with the biannual indexation process coming into effect today.

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September.

Those who need additional support should contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs who can provide a range of financial supports and allowances for those experiencing hardship.

Due to the calculation of pension rates on a daily basis, the next fortnightly pension indexed on payday 25 March 2021 will comprise a component of both the old and new rates. The new pension rates will be fully effective from pension payday 8 April 2021.

The table below highlights the new fortnightly rates:

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$944.30	\$952.70	\$8.40
Couples (each)	\$711.80	\$718.10	\$6.30
Single person – transitional	\$789.30	\$796.30	\$7.00
Couples (each) – transitional	\$636.80	\$642.40	\$5.60
WAR WIDOWS			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$960.40	\$968.90	\$8.50
Income support supplement	\$284.20	\$286.80	\$2.60
DISABILITY PENSION			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,451.80	\$1,464.70	\$12.90
Intermediate rate	\$985.80	\$994.60	\$8.80
EDA	\$802.30	\$809.50	\$7.20
100 per cent	\$516.20	\$520.80	\$4.60
10 per cent	\$58.55	\$59.01	\$0.46
VETERAN PAYMENT			
Single Person	\$1,021.80	\$1,031.10	\$9.30
Couples (each)	\$796.30	\$803.50	\$7.20

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. For a full list of pension rates, please visit [the DVA Payment Rates page](#).

Media contacts

Rachel Tharratt: 02 6277 7820

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon Darren Chester MP, Canberra ACT

Last Post Ceremony and commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service.



Above: Wreath laying for PO WRAN Cook Maude Hebson who died of an illness at HMAS Penguin on 27 December 1943

Right: CMDR Jennifer Parker delivers Maude Hebson's eulogy at the ceremony

Below left: Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth, right, speaks with Gaye Doolan, Heather Milward and Judith Rowe from the WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) at the Australian War Memorial.

Photos: Petty Officer Bradley Darvill and Flickr



Formation of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service Commemorated at the Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01132.004

*WRANS at the communications station in Canberra wearing summer uniform (c. 1942)
L-R Teleprinter Operator Shirley Norma Smith;
Writer (Teleprinter) Majory Elma Rigby; Writer
(Teleprinter) Phyllis Heather McGregor; Signaller
Shirley Isobel Drew and WRAN Cook Maude
Veronica Hebson*

Text 'Kit Muster' by John Perryman

stewards and in other technical roles.

"These women, their willingness to serve and their excellence in service, paved the way for the broad role of women in the RAN today."

In 1979, just half of the military positions were open to women in competition with men. Today, the selection is wide and varied, and more women are taking a path to command at sea or ashore.

To learn more about WRANS and Women in the Navy, visit www.navy.gov.au

Back in April 1941, 12 female telegraphists and two attendants were authorised into service in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS). Sworn into the Navy as enlisted personnel, that first wave of women arrived at Navy's wireless/transmitting station, which was later commissioned as HMAS *Harman* on 1 July 1943.

The 80th anniversary of that historic moment was on April 28 this year commemorated at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post ceremony. Navy's most senior sailor and first female Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth laid a wreath at the event. "Our Navy has undergone significant positive change in 80 years, and this is touching reminder of the brave women who started it all," Warrant Officer Butterworth said.

The ceremony honoured Petty Officer WRAN Cook Maude Hebson, who is one of six World War II WRANS personnel on the war memorial's Roll of Honour.

Post-war rationalisation led to the service being disbanded and the last wartime WRANS were discharged in 1948. By 1951, however, the need for female sailors and officers was again recognised and the service was reconstituted. In 1984, the WRANS was incorporated into the Royal Australian Navy.

Dr Meleah Hampton, a historian at the Australian War Memorial, drew particular attention to Australia's first female electrical engineer, Florence McKenzie. "She founded the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps in order to teach women telegraphy and free up manpower to fight the war," Dr Hampton said. "By the time the war actually began, there were around 120 fully trained women from McKenzie's scheme.

"Although slow to mobilise women, once established, the naval scheme grew quickly, employing women not only as telegraphists, but as intelligence analysts and code-breakers, drivers, cooks, clerks,



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) President Pauline Gribble, left, and former WRAN Merle Hare lay a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Merle is also a NAA ACT Member. She turned 101 in January this year, joined the WRANS on 25 March 1943 rising to PO WRAN SV)

Photo: Petty Officer Bradley Darvill

Extra-ordinary seaman honoured on Anzac Day

Navy personnel have marked Anzac Day in Latrobe, Tasmania, to honour Navy's first Victoria Cross recipient, Ordinary Seaman Edward More than 600 people joined Teddy's relatives and crew from Navy Headquarters Tasmania, HMAS Sheean and HMAS Armidale at a service and march.

The two vessels' presence in Tasmania was a significant recognition of Teddy's gallant actions during World War II, with *Sheean* being the name-sake submarine and *Armidale* being the ship Teddy performed his distinguished service in.

Teddy's great nephew, Garry Ivory, said seeing the two vessels arrive in Devonport for the Anzac Day events felt like Teddy was coming home. "It was a very moving time to watch both ships coming into Teddy's hometown and to me it was like he was coming home to celebrate the Victoria Cross with his Sheean family and his Navy family," Mr Ivory said. "I've been chasing the VC for so long, so to have the Navy here with us and to see Teddy's memorabilia in the ships' passageways made it feel more real."

At the Anzac Day service, Commanding Officer *Sheean* Commander Timothy Markusson said Teddy personified the Anzac spirit and it was a proud day for the crew to be present in his home state.

"On December 1, 2020, Teddy was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, 78 years to the day of



Personnel from HMAS Sheean and HMAS Armidale at the Edward 'Teddy' Sheean Memorial and Sheean Walk in Latrobe, Tasmania on ANZAC Day.

RAN Twitter

his passing," Commander Markusson said.

"It is appropriate on the first Anzac Day since then that we remember his self sacrifice – remaining on the sinking *Armidale* to provide fire cover for his shipmates. His efforts saved 47 of the 147 crew.

"Within today's defence force, Teddy's spirit and sacrifice is captured in our shared values of courage, service, respect, integrity and excellence.

"Teddy's legacy is a shining example to all Australians and continues to echo through those of us who serve during both war and peace.

"Together we are all proud of that great young man and the recent recognition of his valour and selfless service for our nation.

Following the service, Navy personnel were invited to a Sheean family reunion. The event was an emotional one for the vast number of family members who attended, some from interstate.

"It has been fantastic having the Navy here with us. It's going too fast for me at the moment because I don't want the crews to ever leave," Mr Ivory said.

"The Navy being here with us just emphasises the significance of the actions an ordinary – or rather extraordinary – seaman undertook."

Commander Markusson said noting Teddy's actions and paying respect on Anzac Day was not about glorifying war, but about acknowledging the strength of our nation when we pulled together.

"Today we do not glorify war, we hope for peace. Today we show our respect for service and we reflect on those qualities that make us better as individuals and greater together as a nation," Commander Markusson said.

"Today we are thankful that Australians have fought for peace and justice for over 100 years. We honour those who serve so that we may continue to enjoy life in a democratic society."

Full imagery from the event is available at: <https://images.defence.gov.au/S20211322>



Relatives of Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean, VC prepare to lay a wreath at an Anzac Day Service in Latrobe, Tasmania. From left, Mr Andrew Jarvie, Mr Ted Sheean, Miss Bella Sheean and Mr Garry Ivory.

Photo: Petty Officer Tom Gibson

Suicide (cont)

(Continued from page 2)

- * \$7.1 million over four years to extend support for families of veterans;
- * \$2.1 million over four years for an annual health assessment for ex-serving ADF members for the first five years post-discharge;
- * \$4.0 million over two years to pilot a case management service for transitioning or recently discharged ADF members; and
- * \$1.7 million over two years to undertake a scoping study to professionalise veterans' advocacy.

Improving suicide prevention and mental health support

The Government will continue its efforts to develop and implement specific suicide prevention programs targeted at those veterans identified in at risk groups and is already implementing new suicide prevention initiatives that target at risk groups.

In direct response to this Inquiry, the Government will provide \$4.0 million over two years to pilot a personalised and veteran-centric case management service for at risk veterans who may require additional support immediately following their discharge from the military. This initiative will pilot providing veterans identified in at risk groups with a case manager, who will identify and facilitate access to medical, social and employment support, and assist ADF members to make a successful transition into civilian life.

The Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs have also committed to continue strengthening their existing suicide prevention strategies by identifying at risk populations and building protective factors around them.

A pillar of the Government's efforts in improving suicide prevention is ensuring that serving and ex-serving ADF members have access to targeted and timely mental health treatment. An extensive service system exists to support serving and ex-serving ADF members and their families. Help is available and can make a difference.

The expansions to the non-liability health care program over recent years, and the most recent expansion in the 2017-18 Budget whereby anyone who has served at least one day in the full-time ADF can access free treatment for any mental health condition, have greatly improved access to mental health treatment for ex-serving members.

This change has fundamentally altered the way in which current and former members of the ADF are provided with mental health support as they can now access free and immediate treatment, without a requirement to prove that their mental health condition was caused by their service.

Building on this program further, the Government is currently implementing an initiative that will provide a Department of Veterans' Affairs White Card to discharging personnel so they can access mental

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 and 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

Claim Inquiries: 1300 550 017

health treatment when they feel that they need it, any time in their civilian life.

As noted by the Committee, this initiative will strengthen the pathway to care for ADF members as they transition and throughout civilian life. It will also provide a means by which the Department of Veterans' Affairs can rapidly provide support to the veteran population.

In addition, the Government has asked the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Defence and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to work together to maintain the dataset on the incidence of suicide among current and ex-serving ADF personnel, as recommended by the Committee. This ongoing data collection and research will continue to improve our understanding of this complex issue.

The Government agreed to continue to develop and implement specific suicide prevention programs targeted at those veterans identified in at risk groups and is already implementing new suicide prevention initiatives that target at risk groups.

Two new suicide prevention initiatives funded in the 2017-18 Budget will target vulnerable veterans experiencing mental health concerns.

[The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](http://www.dva.gov.au)



Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial Canberra



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The Chief of Navy's statement on the RAN's priorities for 2021 may be seen at

<https://radioadelaide.org.au/2021/04/12/navy-priorities-2021/>