



National Bosun's Call



Vol 2 No 8

Once Navy, Always Navy

September 2021

Prime Minister's Media releases—Defence of Australia

Australian, UK and US partnership

On 16 September 2021, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States of America, announced an enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS).

Nuclear-powered submarines

The first major initiative under AUKUS is Australia's acquisition of at least eight nuclear-powered submarines. The Australian Government intends to build these submarines in Adelaide.

This announcement means the Australian Government will no longer be proceeding with the Attack Class Submarine Program.

Australia, the UK and the US have committed to a comprehensive program of work over the next 18 months that will bring this capability into service. The optimal pathway to achieve this is through a significant increase in Australia-UK-US defence collaboration.

This period will be used to examine the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship, with a specific focus on safety, design, construction, operation, maintenance, disposal, regulation, training, environmental protection, installations and infrastructure, basing, workforce and force structure.

The Government has established a Nuclear-Powered Submarine Task Force (NPSTF) led by VADM Jonathan Mead AO to facilitate Australia's role in AUKUS.

Nuclear-powered submarines have superior characteristics of stealth, speed, manoeuvrability, survivability, and almost limitless endurance, when compared to conventional submarines. They can deploy unmanned underwater vehicles and can also carry more advanced and a greater number of weapons. These abilities allow nuclear-powered submarines to operate in contested areas with a lower risk of detection.

These advantages mean that the transition to nuclear-powered submarines represents a substantial capability leap for the Royal Australian Navy.

The Government is committed to maximising Australian industry participation in this program. Opportunities for Australian industry participation range from capability design to complex project manage-

ment, to construction and sustainment activities.

The NPSTF will provide ongoing updates at the following website: [Nuclear-Powered Submarine Task Force | About | Department of Defence](#)

Other capabilities

The Government will also acquire additional long-range strike capabilities for the Australian Defence Force.

Throughout the decade, Australia will rapidly acquire long-range strike capabilities to enhance the ADF's ability to deliver strike effects across our air, land and maritime domains.

These include:

- **Tomahawk Cruise Missiles**, to be fielded on our Hobart class destroyers, enabling our maritime assets to strike land targets at greater distances, with better precision.
- **Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (Extended Range)** will enable our F/A-18 A/B Hornets and in future, our F-35A Lightning II, to hit targets at a range of 900km.
- **Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles (Extended Range) (LRASM)** for the F/A-18F Super Hornet.
- Continuing collaboration with the United States to develop **hypersonic missiles** for our air capabilities.
- **Precision strike guided missiles** for our land forces, which are capable of destroying, neutralising and suppressing diverse targets from over 400km.
- Accelerating \$1 billion for a **sovereign guided weapons manufacturing enterprise** – which will enable us to create our own weapons on Australian soil.

These capabilities, coupled with the planned Life-of-Type Extension of Australia's Collins class submarine fleet, will enhance Australia's ability to deter and respond to potential security challenges.

The management of this transition, and other capability acquisition options that will meet Australia's strategic requirements, will be at the forefront of consultations through AUKUS over the next 18 months.



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Outcomes from the August 2021 National Council Meeting

The following information is a summary of the outcomes from the August 2021 Zoom National Council Meeting. The material presented is a summary of the Motions discussed and the General Business conducted during the meeting. It was attended by all National Councillors representing all State and Territory Sections, together with Subcommittee representatives and Observers from NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Motions Debated and Resolved at the Council

Motion 1 – Queensland moved that the actions of the Port Adelaide Sub-section, SA Section and National Executive member in dealing with complaints against members were not valid as the numbers were not afforded natural justice. **Motion Lost.**

Motion 2 – Queensland Section moved that the actions of a National Executive member in the matter of complaints against a member of the Port Adelaide Sub-section were invalid as the affected members were not granted a right of appeal under Article 26.1 (ACT Incorporations Act 1991). **Motion Lost**

Motion 3 – It which had moved that the National Council direct the South Australian Section Executive and the South Australian Council conduct themselves in accordance with the constitution. **Queensland withdrew motion 3.**

Motion 4 – Queensland moved that the National Council directs the National Executive to conduct itself in accordance with the Constitution. **Motion Lost.**

Motion 6 - Queensland Executive moves that the Association Four Pillars be incorporated into the Constitution in Section 1.3 Objectives. The matter was referred to the Rules Committee with their recommendation that the proposed motion be referred back to the Queensland Section to draft as a By-law and resubmit to the National Council for recommendation of adoption. **Council adopted the Rules Committee recommendation.**

Motion 7 – ACT Section moved that By-laws 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 in reference to Expression of Interest be adhered to in regard to the NAA website. The issue of time for the EOI to remain live on the website was debated. The NS advised the whole EOI on-line matter is being presently reviewed by the Capitation Working Party and further advice will be provided by end of 2021. **Motion Lost.**

General Business Issues

Broadcast Email . A broadcast email was sent by a Secretary of a Queensland Sub-section to all Sub-sections across Australia in late 2019 ,offering a personal commentary on events which had occurred at the October 2019 National Council Meeting. The matter was referred by the National Secretary for legal advice regarding its compliance with the NAA Constitution and the associated risks of personal and NAA defamation action. The subsequent advice was presented to the National Council. Key points related to allowed communication procedures within the NAA Constitution, adherence to the formal complaints process and defamation risks.

The National President (NP) led the discussion and the outcome was that the National Secretary (NS) was to draft a letter to be sent to all Sections and Sub-sections reminding all members of the NAA of their obligations in regard to communication. The letter is to be pre-approved by the Council before release via State Section Secretaries. The intention of the letter is to remind all members of their obligations and risks they expose both themselves and the NAA if they release unapproved correspondence. Non compliance in the future could result in disciplinary action being taken.

NAA Letterhead – The NAA letterhead is to be redesigned or modified to minimise ink usage , whilst still retaining a professional image.

NAA Submission to Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal – The NP has made both verbal and written submissions to DHAAT regarding recognition of injury or death whilst a member of the ADF. The recognition will be in the form of a small addition to an existing medal or decoration.

Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) - The NAA National Council has been registered with the ACNC.

Capitation and membership Joining Procedures – A working party is examining current procedures, including website based, to ensure compliance and alignment with NAA By-laws. Once established as being compliant, Step 2 will be to create an on-line process for use at Sub-section and Section level which will be fully compliant with the By-laws.

(Continued on page 6)

The Naval Association of Australia Inc

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Key naval projects confirmed for South Australia

16 September 2021

Joint media release:

- **Prime Minister, The Hon Scott Morrison MP**
- **Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP**
- **Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham**

South Australia will spearhead a major expansion of Australia's naval capabilities, supporting thousands of jobs and advancing the state's shipbuilding expertise.

A number of naval projects have been confirmed for South Australia, following the announcement today of a new enhanced security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first initiative under the partnership, known as AUKUS, is to acquire nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, which are intended to be built in South Australia.

The Morrison Government has also approved a Life-of-Type Extension to the Collins class submarine fleet from 2026 in South Australia, and confirmed that the Full-Cycle Docking of the Collins class will continue to be conducted at Osborne. Up to \$6.4 billion will be invested in these works, and around 1,300 jobs supported in South Australia.

The Government will also invest up to \$5.1 billion in upgrades to the Hobart Class destroyer combat management system upgrades at Osborne from 2024, creating 300 jobs in the state.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the investments reinforced the Government's commitment to South Australia's shipbuilding industry.

"This expansion of Australia's naval capabilities will strengthen national security, boost our sovereign workforce and support thousands of jobs in the South Australian industry," the Prime Minister said.

"South Australia is home to some of the most skilled shipbuilding workers in the world, they have the know-how, ingenuity, industrial knowledge and determination that is required to provide our Defence Force with the very best capability."

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the Government's investments would ensure Australia maintained a strong and agile submarine capability for decades.

"The Collins class submarine to this day remains one of the most capable conventional submarines in the world," Minister Dutton said.

"The planned Life-of-Type Extension, through the replacement of key systems, will help deliver Defence's strategic objectives.

"The upgrade to the Aegis combat management system will ensure our fleet of Hobart class air warfare destroyers maintain their capability-edge into the future.



The Hon Peter Dutton MP

Minister for Defence

"Both of these projects announced today are vital for Defence's ability to act with greater independence in an increasingly contested strategic environment.

Minister for Finance and Senator for South Australia Simon Birmingham said the state would continue to benefit from the Morrison Government's sovereign and continuous naval shipbuilding program.

"South Australia is the engine room of naval shipbuilding in this country," Minister Birmingham said.

"Full-Cycle Docking and Life-of-Type Extension at Osborne will ensure we retain our skilled shipbuilding workforce, and will continue to create opportunities for local businesses to engage with the defence industry.

"In addition, the up to \$5.1 billion investment in upgrading the Hobart class combat management system will create extra economic activity as well as around 300 jobs in the state.

"Conducting these sustainment projects in Osborne, on top of the building of frigates and submarines will ensure South of Australia continues to be the epicentre of naval shipbuilding in this country.

Collins class submarine HMAS *Farncomb* will be the first to undergo a Life-of-Type Extension when it enters its next Full-Cycle Docking in 2026.

Joint visit to Indonesia, India, the Republic of Korea, and the United States

8 September 2021

- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne
- Minister for Defence, The Hon Peter Dutton MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, will visit Jakarta, New Delhi, Seoul, Washington and New York to advance Australia's relationships with our close friends and strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia's security and economic prosperity is deeply integrated with those of our regional partners in the Indo-Pacific. We share with these key partners a vision for an open, inclusive and resilient region, underpinned by mutual prosperity and stability.

With 2+2 meetings of Foreign and Defence Ministers across four Indo-Pacific countries, this substantive and significant foreign and defence trip strongly reinforces Australia's active engagement in our region.

Cooperation with partners underpins Australia's approach to the strategic challenges we face in the region. Through these dialogues, we will advance our continuous efforts to work with others to make a positive and proactive contribution to Indo-Pacific peace and stability.

Minister Payne said that among the most pressing issues for discussion was cooperation on our region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring the recovery takes place in a way that reflects our values and principles.

"During our meetings and engagements across the four countries, we will discuss our continuing partnerships to overcome the pandemic, including through the equitable, safe and effective distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and our shared path to global economic recovery," Minister Payne said.

Minister Dutton said the visits are an important opportunity to build on already strong defence relationships, particularly with the United States on the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS alliance.

"I am very much looking forward to meeting with my counterparts face-to-face to build on our already strong relationships and to discuss further our shared interests in keeping our region safe and secure," Minister Dutton said.

In Jakarta, the Ministers will meet with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto for the 7th 2+2 ministerial consultations.

"These high-level talks are an important opportunity to take stock of substantial progress against our

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including COVID-19 response and recovery efforts," Minister Payne said.

"We will also discuss regional security and joint priorities in support of ASEAN, including practical cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," Minister Dutton said.

In New Delhi, the Ministers will attend 2+2 talks with External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"These inaugural 2+2 discussions are a cornerstone of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which is founded on a shared commitment to a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," Minister Payne said.

The relationship between Australia and India is at an historic high, as our nations work together to promote positive regional cooperation. The Ministers will discuss issues including economic security, cyber, climate, critical technology and supply chains.

As Australia and the Republic of Korea advance a mutual commitment to elevation of our bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the Ministers will also travel to Seoul for the fifth bilateral 2+2 consultations with counterparts Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and Minister for National Defense Suh Wook.

"Australia and the Republic of Korea have similar strategic and security interests, and I look forward to discussing our shared priorities and our cooperation with partners, including in the region," Minister Dutton said.

In Washington, the Ministers will participate in the first Australia-United States Ministerial consultations (AUSMIN) with the Biden Administration, joining their counterparts Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, to advance a shared vision for the Indo-Pacific.

The Ministers will discuss deepening cooperation on issues such as COVID-19 response and recovery, economic coercion, defence posture, climate, cyber and critical technology, space and supply chains.

Ministers will also undertake calls with other senior members of the Biden Administration.

"I will also travel to New York to attend the opening of the 76th United Nations General Assembly where I will represent Australia at several events as part of High-Level Week", Minister Payne said.

"This comprehensive program will advance Australia's shared goals with our partners and allies in the region and builds on the numerous online and in-person engagements undertaken by Australian Government ministers over the past eighteen months," Minister Dutton said.

Sydney Harbour to remain at core of east coast defences with navy to expand at Garden Island

Sydney Harbour has had a navy presence since the First Fleet which is set to expand our defences against threats on our east coast. [sic]

Sydney Harbour will retain the naval presence it has had since the First Fleet and "the days of the sail" with Defence formally scotching a public push for them to surrender Garden Island and shift elsewhere along the east coast.

NSW is also poised to have a submarine berth for the first time in more than 20 years to strategically boost defences of the most populous side of the nation, with Garden Island at its centre.

After countless reviews since the 1960s through to today, Defence has formally ruled "there's no feasible economic east coast location for the total replacement of the capabilities that are provided at Garden Island".

Investment in the base has concluded it "will remain viable as the sustainment and home port for our east coast major fleet units" well into the future.

The only remaining consideration being the continued push back from residents of Potts Point, Woolloomooloo and Kings Cross whose complaints have already forced the Royal Australian Navy to alter its operations.

There had been government lobbying from some quarters for Garden Island to be part-surrendered to the leisure cruise-ship industry to boost tourism and economy but that notion did not fit with the bigger picture to have a submarine base on the east coast with resources already in Sydney Harbour at its core.

The Federal Government has yet to make an announcement about submarines, which are currently all based in Western Australia, but sources confirmed internal Defence analyses showed a need for a two-ocean basing of a future submarine fleet with a presence on the east coast, at its own base anticipated to be in NSW.

That review also found personnel hiring and retention for the armed forces would benefit if part of the sub fleet were based in Sydney.

Defence has been reviewing the push since 2017 when internal polling found Navy was hemorrhaging staff in part due to familial separation with the majority of sub crews hired from the east but based in the west.

The submariner ranks have to swell from current 852 personnel to more than 2000

Garden Island, Fleet Base East
(prior to the commencement of CIRP
in 2018)

to accommodate the new fleet of French-designed Barracuda sometime in the next decade and maintain a sea-shore capability.

There are already plans for infrastructure developments at Garden Island and the RAN in NSW, including 900 new accommodation units potentially to be constructed at Randwick Barracks.

Navy Future Infrastructure chief Rear Admiral Philip Spedding described Garden Island as an enduring base "since the days of the sail" that remained viable.

"It does, of course, suffer from urban encroachment, so we have to change some of our practices, and we have done so, to be able to accommodate the demands and needs of the resident population nearby, but it is still a viable site for the Navy going forward," he told a defence committee reviewing infrastructure.

He described Garden Island and the Sydney basin defence precinct including HMAS Penguin, HMAS Watson, HMAS Waterhen and Randwick Barracks, Chowder Bay fuel storage and Sydney Fleet HQ as an interlocked system.

"If you think about moving individual elements out of Sydney, you dislocate the system and introduce inefficiencies and additional costs," he said. "At the moment, our intention is to remain based on the east coast in Sydney, but, as I said, we balance it up between the west coast and the east coast. If the government, on recommendation, were to accept an east coast submarine base, then you might look at what other capabilities it would be sensible to co-locate in that location, but that advice has not yet been provided to government."

Charles Miranda

24 July, 2021 -

News Corp Australia Network



Garden Island (East) Critical Infrastructure Recovery Program (CIRP)

The Garden Island (East) Critical Infrastructure Recovery Program (CIRP). The Department of Defence (Defence) has established this website to provide information to members of the public about the important works that Defence will be delivering under this program.

Defence is delivering critical infrastructure and engineering works at Garden Island (East), Sydney, New South Wales under a CIRP. The purpose of the works is to address significant condition, capacity and compliance issues with the wharves and base-wide engineering services.

Defence is delivering the CIRP works in two stages:

Stage One will demolish the existing Cruiser and Oil wharves, and build a new wharf in a revised alignment in their place. The new realigned wharf will be equipped with a crane, engineering services and wharf furniture to replace those removed during demolition; and

Stage Two will remediate the remaining wharves as well as base-wide engineering services such as the electrical and fuel systems.

Editor's Note

Stage One has been completed and Stage Two was commenced on 12 August 2019 with a completion date at present set for January 2024.



Outcomes from August 2021 National Council Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

The intention is to complete Step 1 during 2021. Step 2 will commence in 2022 to develop a functional automated process.

Governor General's Award for Community Covid Support – In late 2020, the GG office provided each organisation for which either he or his wife were Patrons, a medallion to be presented to a member who contributed most during the COVID-19 pandemic, to keeping the organisation viable and in contact with its members to support their welfare.

The NP took charge personally of the task of seeking nominations from State Sections and from the National Council. At the closing of the nomination period, three nominations were put before a selection panel chaired by the NP. **The successful recipient was – Russell Pettis – National Secretary, White Ensign Magazine Editor and Secretary/Treasurer Footscray Sub-section, Victoria.**

HMAS SYDNEY II Virtual Memorial – A working party has been formed to review all elements of

the VM after it has operated for the last 11 years. On-line technology has advanced significantly since it was launched and the website requires upgrading. A key member of the working party is Richard Sojka, curator of the VM since its inception. Upgrades will occur over the next 12 months.

Digital NAA Centenary Commemorative Memorial – The Victorian Section is exploring the establishment of a digital memorial (vignette) at the site of the first meeting of the NAA in Melbourne in November 1920. The NC has agreed to support the concept, but has requested a detailed business case – including costing estimates and concept design images – to support funding the proposal in an appropriate manner.

Russell Pettis
National Secretary

September 2021

MERCATOR—Maritime Domain Strategy 2040

Chief of Navy Message

Our Vision: A credible and sustainable permanent joint maritime presence

As an island continent, Australia is first and foremost a maritime nation. Our security and prosperity is directly linked to the oceans and seas. Controlling our seaborne approaches and supporting international efforts to assure the global maritime commons is essential for our continued prosperity.

With the increasing pace of technological and geopolitical change, we have entered into a prolonged period of strategic competition that will continue to shape our region for decades to come. We will continue to prioritise our immediate region. Doing nothing, or waiting for allies to solve our challenges is not an option.

Government has directed the implementation of a new strategic policy that signals Australia's ability – and willingness – to project military power and deter actions against our interests. MERCATOR is our Maritime Domain strategy to achieve this. Our intent to Shape, Deter and Respond is a coordinated national endeavour.

This is my strategy as the Maritime Domain lead for Defence. I commend MERCATOR to you and ask you all to continue to contribute to it, improve it, and execute it – together.



The Strategy is available on the following internet addresses

[MERCATOR Maritime Domain Strategy 2040
\(\[navy.gov.au\]\(https://www.navy.gov.au\)\)](https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/MERCATOR_2040.pdf)

[https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/
documents/MERCATOR_2040.pdf](https://www.navy.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/MERCATOR_2040.pdf)

DVA—Defence Engagement Appointment

Tuesday, 24 August 2021

The Hon Andrew Gee MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee today announced the appointment of Mr Stuart Smith AO DSC as Defence Engagement Commissioner.

"Following a distinguished military career spanning 37 years rising to the rank of Major General, and post service employment as the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator in Queensland, I'm pleased to announce Mr Stuart Smith has been appointed as Defence Engagement Commissioner, to lead the Repatriation Commission's engagement with the Australian Defence Force (ADF)," Minister Gee said.

"Mr Smith has been acting in the position since August 2020. During this time he has worked closely with Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to strengthen cooperation and outcomes for our veterans.

"In particular, Mr Smith works with many ex-service organisations to discuss support for serving veterans and the delivery of programs that enable veterans and their families to secure meaningful employment once they transition.

"Over the past year, he has also worked closely with the Joint Transition Authority to establish a framework for transition support and services." Mr Smith has actively engaged with Defence leaders, ex-service organisations, veterans and Defence personnel. He has undertaken roundtables and visits to Defence bases around the country to listen and grasp a fuller understanding of the ADF experience.

In 2012 Major General Smith was appointed Commander Joint Task Force 633, responsible for Operation Slipper and Australian forces operating in the Middle East.

"During my period of command in Afghanistan six Australian soldiers were killed and three were wounded in action," Mr Smith said. "I have been

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Stuart Smith — Defence Engagement Commissioner

Commissioner Smith rounds out a 100-year legacy of family members serving our nation, from South Africa to Afghanistan. His exposure to military service came early in life. His father Bernard Smith served two tours during the Vietnam War, and was tragically killed in action in 1969 when he was an infantry sergeant with the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR).

Commissioner Smith followed in the family tradition, enlisting in 1981 with scholarship entry to the Royal Military College Duntroon. He was appointed Commanding Officer of 1RAR in 2003, and commanded the 3rd Brigade in Townsville from 2009 to 2011. The following year, he was promoted to Major General and appointed Commander Joint Task Force 633, responsible for ADF operations in the Middle East.

On his return to home soil, Commissioner Smith assumed command of the Headquarters 1st Division/Deployable Joint Force Headquarters in Brisbane for three years and in 2015 was appointed Deputy Chief of Joint Operations until his retirement from the Australian Army in 2017.

During his military career, he participated in several humanitarian operations, including earthquake/tsunami assistance in Sumatra, Indonesia in the 2004 summer, and leading the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Disaster Response to Cyclone Yasi in North Queensland during February 2011.

His last formal duty prior to his transition to civilian life was to read the story of his father's service at The Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 18 August 2017.

'So that closed the circle on five generations of service by our family,' Commissioner Smith says.

After leaving the ADF, he became an advisor to the Queensland Premier on community solutions to youth crime and from late 2018 until mid-2019 he was State Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the Central Queensland Bushfires and the North Queensland Monsoon Floods, where he led social, infrastructure, economic and environmental recovery activities across Queensland.

In reflecting on his time in service, Commissioner Smith notes moments when service men and women demonstrated unique qualities of selflessness as stand-out memories.

'I am forever grateful for being able to witness soldiers, sailors, airmen and women personifying values of excellence, respect and courage,' he says.

'I witnessed calm excellence in the manner in which our soldiers maintained the peace and trained border police in Timor in 2003.

'I saw empathy and respect displayed by Defence men and women towards disaster stricken communities in Far North Queensland during response and recovery operations after Cyclone Yasi in 2011. They adapted ways to clear debris, open roads, evacuate the vulnerable, restore power and get vital supplies into the region.

'And I was humbled by the persistent courage demonstrated by the people I commanded in the Middle East as they completed complex land, sea and air operations across the Gulf and Afghanistan.'

Commissioner Smith plans on drawing on these inspirational moments in his new position. As the Defence Engagement Commissioner, he is responsible for engaging with the Department of Defence on behalf of the Repatriation Commission, with a focus on strategic planning and advising on what future generations of veterans will look like. He will inform DVA on the future direction of the ADF, ensuring our future veterans have the support they need, when and where they need it.

'My primary objective is to understand the pathway that a veteran is on from enlistment, through training, operations and transition to another career,' he says. 'What are the touchpoints on that pathway for DVA, and how can we improve those touchpoints in terms of policies and procedures to ensure that the next generation of veterans are looked after in the best possible way? Success is a seamless transition.'

The Commissioner planned his own transition well in advance. He suggests serving members need to take a long-term view when considering their transition plan. He believes that the first step is to visualise what work and lifestyle you want for you and your family after your Defence service.

'Once, you have that vision, you can plan early for the other aspects that will contribute to the wellbeing of you and your family, such as what education you might wish to undertake, housing, and health support.

'I was fortunate in that I took early advantage of opportunities to prepare myself for transition such as accessing the Defence Home Owner Scheme, completing part-time tertiary study, and submitting my health records through the MyService portal. My goal now is to work with DVA and Defence to replicate a smooth pathway for all our emerging veterans.'

DVA—Defence Engagement Appointment

(Continued from page 7)

working hard to ensure the support for those veterans and their families affected by service has been synchronised between Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.;

"With the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan and many veterans reflecting on their service, getting that support to where it is needed has never been more important."

Minister Gee said he warmly welcomed Stuart Smith's appointment.

"With a deep professional understanding of the ADF and extensive public and private sector experience, I am positive Mr Smith will continue to contribute highly to the close cooperative relationship between the Repatriation Commission and the ADF to better support Defence personnel, veterans and their families," Minister Gee said.

China warning as ships delayed

The construction of the first three of the navy's nine new frigates will be delayed by up to 18 months, as Defence Minister Peter Dutton warned China's rise meant Australia could not afford further slippages in the timeline for its new frigates and submarines.

A frustrated Mr Dutton has delivered a blunt message to all prime contractors for the \$45bn frigate project and the \$90bn submarine project, saying Australia cannot allow these crucial projects to drift at a time of growing strategic uncertainty.

His comments came after he publicly confirmed for the first time that construction of the first of the new Hunter-Class frigates had been pushed back by up to a year and a half due to delays in the development of Britain's Type 26 Frigate, on which the Australian ship design is based.

Under a revised schedule, the delay will be recovered only by the time construction begins on the fourth ship, meaning the first three frigates will now face a delayed introduction into naval service from the early 2030s.

"It is frustrating to see an up-to-18-month delay to the start of construction of ship one, but importantly this delay will be recovered over the term of the project," Mr Dutton told *The Weekend Australian*. "We are making difficult decisions in the national interest.

"It is important to note that the Australian changes are not the cause of the delay. The delay is directly related to the UK's Type 26 design maturity which flows through to our program."

He warned that Australia could not afford further setbacks in its major naval shipbuilding projects, given the rise of China.

"Our strategic circumstances with regard to the CCP (China) in our region mean I don't intend to just sit back and let these projects drift," he said. "I have delivered a blunt message to all the primes and made it very clear they are to deliver these defence projects on time and on budget."

Both the plan to build the frigates – the mainstay of Australia's future fleet – and 12 new French-designed submarines have hit problems early before steel is cut on any of them.

The frigates will be based on Britain's Type 26 frigate but will be modified to include a US combat system and an Australian radar, among other changes.

However, the development in Britain of the Type 26, which is not yet in service, has been delayed by design and weight problems, as well as by the Covid-related lockdowns in the UK this year.

This has meant the design is still too immature for the Australianised ver-

sion to proceed as scheduled in Adelaide, and Mr Dutton has accepted advice that a delay of up to 18 months in the first ship would reduce design-related risks for the Hunter-Class boats.

The revised schedule means all nine frigates will still be delivered as originally planned by 2044. However, steel will not be cut on the first ship until 2024. It will not be completed until 2031, and will not enter service until 2033.

There is a concern that the weight of the new Hunter-Class frigates is already too heavy to accommodate future upgrades to weapons or other systems, potentially limiting their lifespan as effective warships.

The evolving design work on the Hunter-Class has seen the ship's weight jump from a full displacement weight of 8800 tonnes to more than 10,000 tons.

The vessel's weight margin – in other words the margin of growth to place future systems on the warship in years to come – is only 270 tonnes, or 3.3 per cent. By contrast the current ANZAC-class frigates had an initial weight margin of growth of 10 per cent, although this was larger than normal because they were built without several key systems.

"The risk is you won't be able to evolve the vessel over its career because essentially you have used up the weight margin to add future systems to it as the threat evolves," said Marcus Hellyer, a senior defence analyst with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Craig Lockhart, the managing director of the frigate builder, BAE Systems Maritime Australia, denied the ship was too heavy and said its weight would not detract from its performance. "The Hunter ship ... is within the design criteria to meet key whole-ship performance characteristics," he said.

The government recently revealed that the cost of the project had jumped from \$35bn to \$45bn.

Cameron Stewart

Associate Editor—The Australian





Colleagues,

Please promulgate the attachment as widely as possible. You will see that the NAA is not listed as one of the ESOs participating, accordingly, I wish to advise that on the day before the DVA hosted Session with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, we received late notice of the scheduled timing. As I was already committed to participate in a Zoom Session with the AWM, wherein the timing did not allow me to participate in both Sessions, I provided my apologies. I am disappointed The Minister's Office did not acknowledge that when listing those ESOs attending the session with The Minister. We are all very conscious of the many ADF personnel who have served in Afghanistan and other conflicts, and the support and sacrifice given so wholeheartedly by their friends and families. The NAA fully supports every effort and initiative to watch over and provide for those who are and have served.

David Manolas
National President
Naval Association of Australia

Ex-Service Organisations convene support for Afghan Veterans

Wednesday, August 18 2021

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Ex-service organisations from across the nation have met with the Australian Government today to throw their support behind efforts underway to assist veterans and families impacted by the situation in Afghanistan.

The Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs convened the extraordinary meeting of the Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) Roundtable, bringing together key players in the Defence and veteran community, to coordinate veteran mental health outreach and support.

"We have a network of incredible veteran and community groups across the nation who are, everyday delivering much needed services and support," Minister Gee said.

"I hosted a meeting this morning with our ESOs to join forces to support the veterans who served in Afghanistan and other conflicts, and also their families.

"Community and ex-service organisations play a critical role in the support of the veteran community and today they reiterated their commitment working with the Australian Government to deliver a united effort at this difficult time," Minister Gee said.

Organisations in attendance included the Air Force Association, Australian War Widows, Defence Families Australia, Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association, Defence Reserves Association, Legacy Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, Returned and Services League of Australia, TPI Federation Australia, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia.

"Over the last 20 years, Australia has been a steadfast contributor to the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. Now the Defence and veteran community need to know that we are steadfast in our commitment to their wellbeing at home.

"Earlier this week I directed the Department of Veterans' Affairs to phone the families of ADF members who lost their lives in Afghanistan, as well as veterans that the department is aware of who could suffer adversely as a result of what is currently happening in Afghanistan, and let them know that support is available if it's needed.

"I encourage anyone in need of help to access the services that are available to them and their families.

"I would also encourage Australians to pick up the phone to say g'day to any veterans you may know. Now more than ever it's vitally important to stay connected. A friendly voice can make all the difference to a mate who may be in need."

Support services

Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling service is available 24/7 on [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046)

Safe Zone Support on [1800 142 072](tel:1800142072) is a free and anonymous counselling line for current serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families available 24/7

Defence Family Helpline available for ADF members and their families, available 24/7 — dial [1800 624 608](tel:1800624608)

Media contacts

Minister Gee's office: [0459 966 944](tel:0459966944)

DVA Media: [02 6289 6466](tel:0262896466)

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.

Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046) (international: +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Honouring our veterans who served in Malaya and Borneo

Tuesday, 31 August 2021

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Today is Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day, when we pause to recognise and remember the 10,500 Australians who served in the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said he encourages Australians to acknowledge the service and dedication of those who fought in these post-Second World War conflicts in the Malaya and Borneo regions.

"Only a few short years following the end of the Second World War, the Malayan Emergency began in 1948, lasting until 1960," Minister Gee said.

"The Malayan Emergency was declared following the murder of three European estate managers who were killed as part of the Malayan Communist Party's insurgency against the British colonial government. Australia's military involvement commenced in 1950 and continued with anti-insurgency operations in Malaya until 1963."

One key success of the conflict was a coordinated operation in July 1954 in Perak state. In an operation code named Termite, five RAAF Lincoln bombers and another six Lincolns from 148 RAF Squadron made simultaneous attacks on two communist camps. This was followed by drops of British paratroops, a ground attack, and a further bombing run ten days later. The mission destroyed a large number of guerrilla camps..

During 13 years in Malaya, personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force played an important role in bringing the long-running communist insurgency in the region to an end.

The Indonesian Confrontation or *Konfrontasi* started in 1962, ending in 1966. This conflict was a small undeclared war fought between Indonesia and the newly federated state of Malaysia.

"The Confrontation was a dispute over whether the former British colonies of Sabah and Sarawak which bordered Indonesian provinces on Borneo, would become part of Indonesia or of the newly federated Malaysia," Minister Gee said.

"In 1964 Australian, New Zealand and British troops first became involved in the conflict.

"On 11 August 1966 Indonesia signed a peace treaty with Malaysia. The treaty recognised that the North Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak would continue to be part of the Malaysian Federation.

"This year marks 55 years since the end

of the Confrontation and I urge all Australians to pause and remember the service and sacrifice of those who fought for our nation.

"Tragically, we lost 39 Australians during the Malayan Emergency, and 23 military personnel during the Indonesian Confrontation. Australia will never forget them and all who served in those conflicts. They made a vitally important contribution to restoring peace and security to our region."

MALAYAN EMERGENCY 16 JUNE 1948 – 31 JULY 1960

(ALSO SERVED AS PART OF BCFESR*)

13 Royal Australian Navy ships were attached to the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR) at various times between 1955-1960 and all took turns patrolling Malayan Waters.

- Aircraft Carriers*: HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney
- Destroyers,*: HMAS Anzac, HMAS Arunta, HMAS Tobruk, HMAS Vampire, HMAS Vendetta, HMAS Voyager and HMAS Warramunga.
- Frigates,* HMAS Quadrant, HMAS Queenborough, HMAS Quiberon, HMAS Quickmatch.

The RAN commitment to BCFESR was a continuous presence of two destroyers/frigates and HMAS Melbourne deployed to the Far East area annually.

INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION 24 DEC 1962- 11 AUG 1966

(UNITS ALSO SERVED AS PART OF BCFESR *) NAVY

- Aircraft Carriers*: HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney transported troops and equipment.
- Frigates*: – HMAS Yarra, HMAS Parramatta, HMAS Derwent.
- Destroyers*: HMAS Vampire and HMAS Vendetta
- Minesweepers: HMAS Teal, HMAS Hawk, HMAS Ibis, HMAS Curlew, HMAS Gull, HMAS Snipe.

HMAS Tobruk refuelling from HMAS Sydney



Mental health support for White Card holders

11 August 2021

Services delivered as part of the Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program have been expanded, with Veteran White Card holders with an accepted mental health condition now eligible to receive co-ordinated support for their health and wellbeing needs.

The CVC Program is a proactive coordinated care program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs for veterans with one or more chronic conditions and complex care needs. The program reduces unplanned hospitalisation and improves the quality of life for participants.

As part of the Australian Government's commitment to addressing veteran mental health and suicide prevention, the inclusion of Veteran White Card holders with accepted mental health condi-

tions has the aim of ensuring positive, long-term health impacts for new participants.

The CVC Program engages the General Practitioner (GP), practice nurse and the participant at the centre of a multi-disciplinary care team to develop and deliver a meaningful, comprehensive care plan.

The expansion will enable GPs and practice nurses to better support this cohort in meeting their health needs and also through improving the participants' health literacy and self-management of their condition/s.

Eligible Veteran White Card holders with an accepted mental health condition can be enrolled in the CVC Program by their GP from 1 July 2021.

For more information on the CVC Program and eligibility visit www.dva.gov.au/cvc

Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program White Card Information

Last updated 24 June 2021

What's changing

From 1 July 2021 eligible [Veteran White Card](#) holders will have access to the Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program.

Who can access the program

[Veteran White Card](#) holders who have an accepted mental health condition and meet one or more of the following CVC eligibility criteria:

- Are at risk of unplanned hospitalisation
- Have complex care needs

Have a complex treatment regime

Are there any other changes

Besides checking to make sure your patient's mental health condition is an accepted condition, there are no changes to the way patients are enrolled in the [CVC Program](#), [CVC Care Planning](#) and the [claiming](#) process.

Accepted Conditions

For CVC Program eligibility, an accepted mental health condition is that which DVA has accepted as being related to a participant's military service. This does not

include [Non-liability health care \(NLHC\)](#) for mental health. You can confirm the accepted condition/s of a participant by:

- Getting a printed list from your patient
- Asking your patient to login to their [MyService](#) account or app and show you their accepted condition/s under the 'Cards' tab

Calling the Health Provider Enquiry line on [1800 550 457](#) to confirm that their mental health condition is an accepted condition, after having gained the veteran's consent.

For more information on DVA accepted conditions you can visit the [What a DVA health card covers](#) page.



What is the Veteran White Card

The White Card is a treatment card that can provide you with medical treatment for:

- accepted service-related injuries or conditions
- all mental health conditions (for veterans with continuous full-time service or certain reserve service)

If you are eligible the White Card can also provide you with medical treatment for:

- cancer (malignant neoplasm) covered under non-liability health care
- pulmonary tuberculosis covered under non-liability health care

You can also access a range of services and support.

The White Card is being redesigned and will be known as the Veteran White Card.

Who can receive it

You may be eligible for a White Card for your service-related injuries or conditions if you are:

- a current or former Australian Defence Force (ADF) member, including reservists and cadets, with a service-related injury or condition accepted by us; or
- a Commonwealth or Allied veteran with a service-related injury or condition accepted by your country of service

You may be eligible for a White Card to cover treatment for any mental health condition if you:

- have at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS) with the ADF; or
- are a reservist and have completed disaster relief service, border protection service, or were involved in a serious service-related training accident

You may be eligible for a White Card to cover treatment for cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis if you have:

- a diagnosis of cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis; and
- certain types of service with the ADF

The eligibility criteria for free treatment for cancer and pulmonary are not the same as for mental health coverage. Not everyone who can get the White Card for mental health conditions is eligible for free treatment for cancer or pulmonary tuberculosis. For more information you can check our cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis page or contact us.

What you can receive

The White Card covers you for clinically required medical treatment in Australia for your accepted service-related injuries or conditions. It may also cover treatment for mental health conditions, cancer (malignant neoplasm) and pulmonary tuberculosis, if you meet the eligibility criteria for treatment for these conditions.

The medical treatment may include:

- treatment at a hospital or day procedure facility
- treatment provided by an allied health professional
- treatment provided by a general practitioner (GP) or specialist
- treatment provided by a dental or optical professional
- medicines at the cheaper concession rate
- community nursing; and
- pathology and medical imaging

Medical treatment is usually free if you see a provider who accepts your White Card. There may be some out of pocket expenses for high cost dental items.

When buying prescription items for the conditions covered by your White Card, you will need to pay \$6.60 for each item until you reach your Safety Net Threshold for the calendar year.

You may also be able to receive some services and support for your conditions on your White Card. Services and support can include:

- counselling
- home help
- aids, appliances and modifications
- travel to and from medical appointments
- care services

Services and support are free or low cost. Co-payments will apply if you access help at home through our Veterans' Home Care program.

If you are an Australian veteran, the home help and care services provided through Veterans' Home Care are not limited to the conditions on your White Card.

If you are a Commonwealth or Allied veteran, what you receive may be different to what Australian veterans receive.

Your White Card may also entitle you to receive concessions or discounts, and a Lapel Pin.

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
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



Memorial Service HMAS Canberra I 6 August 2021



Above: CDRE S. Ottiviano RAN on behalf of the RAN



Right: Alex McGown, Vice President ACT Section of the NAA and RADM Simon Cullen AM CSC RAN Rtd President of the Naval Historical Society ACT Chapter



CMDR B. Westcott RAN on behalf of HMAS Canberra III



AIRCDRE K. Ashworth RAAF with CPL L. Purdon on behalf of the RAAF



CAPT M. Ort USN on behalf of the USN



CMDR M. Magzoub RN on behalf of the RN



Above L-R: CMDR D. Radnidge RAN CO HMAS Harman, Dr K. Spurling on behalf of War Widows and P. Gribble on behalf of Navy Women

Left: CPL L. Purdon, whose grandfather, a PO Blacksmith, survived the sinking of Canberra,

Photos: Kath Masters



In Canberra, a commemoration was hosted by the Naval Association of Australia, ACT Section at the HMAS *Canberra I* Monument on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin which was unveiled by ADML Sir Anthony Synnot KBE AO RAN on 9 August 1981. Of *Canberra's* ship's company, 84 men of the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Navy, the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force were killed in action or subsequently died of their wounds. Also remembered, were the 939 men of the United States Navy who died in their own ships in the Battle of Savo Island.

Memorial Service onboard HMAS Canberra III at sea 9 August 2021



HMAS Ballarat sails in company with HMAS Canberra during a commemoration of the Battle of the Savo Island in the Western Pacific.

This battle, fought side by side with our American Allies, was part of a critical campaign centred on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands during WW2. This campaign continued for months after the loss of Canberra and would become a key turning point in the war in the Pacific.

On August 9, 2021, the crew of HMAS Canberra remembered the first ship to bear her name during a small ceremony at sea, marking 79 years since the Battle of Savo Island.

At the service the Commanding Officer Canberra, Captain Jace Hutchison said the Battle of Savo Island formed part of a shared history between Australia and the USA.

"It has seen our alliance and friendship strengthen in the face of adversity," Captain Hutchison said. "The name *Canberra* has lived on since World War II, not just in the RAN but also in the United States Navy, which has named two ships after *Canberra*."

USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2) was a *Baltimore*-class cruiser and later a *Boston*-class guided missile cruiser of the United States Navy. Originally to be named USS *Pittsburgh*, the ship was re-named before launch to honor the loss of the Australian cruiser HMAS *Canberra* during the Battle of Savo Island. USS *Canberra* was the first USN warship named after a foreign capital city.

The ship entered service in 1943, and served in the Pacific theatre of World War II until she was torpedoed during the Aerial Battle of Taiwan-Okinawa and forced to return to the United States for repairs. Placed in reserve after the war, *Canberra* was selected for conversion into the second guided-missile carrying warship in the USN fleet. Following the conversion, she was host to the ceremony for selecting the Unknown Soldier representing World War II in 1958, undertook an eight-month round-the-world cruise in 1960, participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis naval blockade in 1962, and was de-



played to the Vietnam War on five occasions between 1965 and 1969.

Canberra was decommissioned in 1970, struck in 1978, and broken up in 1980. One of her propellers is preserved at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, while the ship's bell was donated to the Australian National Maritime Museum in 2001.

Operation COVID-19 Assist

19 August 2021

Nationally

Then Minister for Defence, Linda Reynolds, announced Operation COVID-19 Assist on April 1, 2020.

Current nationwide Defence support includes:

- About 2,063 personnel are deployed as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist.
- The ADF is supporting law enforcement agencies with mandatory quarantine arrangements.
- The ADF will not be authorised as law enforcement officers as this remains the responsibility of the states and territories.

Additionally, the ADF:

- Has established the three-star-led COVID-19 Taskforce to coordinate Defence's internal response to COVID-19 and support the whole-of-government effort.
- Is supporting Emergency Management Australia-led (EMA) planning for the National Communicable Disease Incidence of National Significance Plan in response to COVID-19.
- Is supporting the Department of Health with logistics and specialist staff.
- Has been supplying clinical and epidemiological support to the Department of Health National Incident Room since early February 2020.
- 95 ADF and Defence APS personnel are embedded in various Australian Government agencies, including the Department of Health and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

State-by-state breakdown

*Note: Personnel in Joint Task Group headquarters, supporting roles, and those preparing for tasks are included in overall state-based figures but are not captured in the list of tasks.

Queensland – 271 personnel

- 227 ADF personnel are supporting quarantine compliance management efforts, including at airports and hotels.

New South Wales – 956 personnel

- 230 ADF personnel are supporting state police quarantine compliance monitoring, reception and repatriation efforts at Sydney airport and hotels.
- 500 ADF personnel are supporting state police community presence activities in Greater Sydney.
- 108 ADF personnel are supporting NSW Health.

- 71 ADF personnel are supporting NSW Health vaccine outreach teams.

Victoria – 322 personnel

- 187 ADF personnel are supporting quarantine compliance management in Melbourne.
- 88 ADF personnel are supporting the Victorian Department of Health Household Engagement Program.

South Australia – 161 personnel

- 106 ADF personnel are supporting South Australia Police quarantine compliance management at six Adelaide metropolitan hotels.
- 33 ADF personnel are supporting South Australia Health COVID-19 testing activities.

Western Australia – 59 personnel

- 32 ADF personnel are involved in quarantine assistance at hotels and at the Perth Airport.

Tasmania – 61 personnel

- 55 ADF personnel are currently involved in quarantine assistance in Hobart.

Northern Territory – 132 personnel

- 111 ADF personnel are supporting Australian Federal Police and Northern Territory Police quarantine compliance management.

Australian Capital Territory – 35 personnel

- 24 ADF personnel are supporting ACT Health COVID-19 testing activities.

Defence COVID-19 cases

208 Overseas/other	0 ACT	13 NSW
1 NT	1 QLD	2 SA
0 TAS	17 VIC	2 WA
	Total 244	Recovered 234





Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021 (TS21) is the largest bilateral training activity between Australia and the United States, commencing on 14

July 2021. A biennial exercise since 2003, held every two years, TS21 aims to test Australian interoperability with the United States and other participating forces in complex warfighting scenarios. In addition to the United States,

TS21 involves participating forces from Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The exercise includes of a Field Training Exercise incorporating force preparation (logistic) activities, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, urban operations, air combat and maritime operations.

Activities will peak over the period of 18 – 31 July across Queensland. TS21 is a major undertaking for all attending nations and demonstrates the combined capability to achieve large-scale operational outcomes within a COVID-19 safe environment.

HMAS Brisbane conducts a Replenishment at Sea with USNS Rappahannock, during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021.

Participants

Approximately 17,000 military personnel from seven nations are participating across all domains during Talisman Sabre 21 - maritime, land, air, information and cyber, and space.

The approximate breakdown of personnel by nation is:

- 8,300 Australians
- 8,000 Americans
- 200 Japanese
- 250 Canadians
- 230 South Koreans
- 130 British
- 20 New Zealanders.

Australian elements

Maritime domain

- Frigate, Helicopter
HMAS Parramatta
HMAS Ballarat
- Destroyer, Missile Guided
HMAS Brisbane
- Minehunter, Coastal
HMAS Diamantina
- Hydrographic Survey
HMAS Melville
- Submarines
HMAS Collins
HMAS Rankin

Amphibious Elements

- Landing Helicopter Dock
HMAS Canberra
 - Landing Ship Dock
HMAS Choules
- 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment



Media release: New COVID-19 digital certificate simplifies proof of vaccination

9 June 2021

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Minister for Government Services

Everyone who has received all required doses of their COVID-19 vaccination can now access the recently launched COVID-19 digital certificate.

Minister for Government Services, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, said the new record makes it simple and easy for people to show their COVID-19 vaccination status.

"The COVID-19 digital certificate makes proof of vaccination accessible anytime, anywhere," Minister Reynolds said.

"We're also giving people control over the level of vaccination history they share, as the certificate only shows your COVID-19 vaccination status.

"Once your provider has reported both doses of an approved vaccine, you'll be able to access your COVID-19 digital certificate online through myGov or in the Express Plus Medicare app.

"I'm encouraging all Australians to ensure you've linked your Medicare account to myGov.

"Linking Medicare to myGov is simple, and more than 10 million Australians have already completed this process."

The Morrison Government is securing the health and safety of all Australians, and Medicare's trusted systems are making this happen.

"We're guaranteeing everyone in Australia can get free COVID-19 vaccinations and making sure you can easily show proof of your immunisation," Minister Reynolds said.

"It's all about making government services simpler for all Australians, and this new immunisation certificate is a great example."

Use Services Australia's interactive tool for more information about how to access proof of COVID-19 vaccines at:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/covidvaccineproof

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

If you're not eligible for Medicare

You can add your COVID-19 digital certificate to your digital wallet using the Individual Healthcare Identifiers service (IHI service) through myGov.

If you're using the IHI service through myGov:

1. Sign in to your myGov account using a browser on your device.
2. Select **Individual Healthcare Identifiers service**.
3. Select **View immunisation history** on the Immunisation history tile.
4. Select either **Add to Apple Wallet** or **Save to phone** for Google Pay.

If you're using an iOS device, you can use either the Safari or Chrome browsers. If you're using an Android device, you need to use the Chrome browser.