



# National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 6

Once Navy, Always Navy

July 2022

## Chief of Navy Change of Command Ceremony

The Command of the Royal Australian Navy was formally handed over to VADM Mark Hammond, AM, RAN by the outgoing Chief of Navy VADM Michael Noonan, AO, RAN on 6 July 2022 in a ceremony attended dignitaries and members of Defence at Sir Thomas Blamey Square, Defence Headquarters Canberra.

In his farewell address Vice Admiral Noonan said that the last four years had been a period of considerable change.

"I am incredibly proud of the unprecedented support our Navy people provided to our country during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also maintaining Navy's regular operations; protecting Australia's maritime approaches and vital trade routes, conducting essential border protection activities and maintaining a consistent presence in the South West Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific region," he said.

"We have grown into a larger, more diverse workforce of more than 15,000 people, and we have enabled the Defence Total Workforce Model to deliver a fully integrated workforce, with greater flexibility in the options to render, or in fact return, to Navy service."

Vice Admiral Noonan oversaw Navy Fleet's biggest evolution since the WW2. Navy commissioned two Hobart-class destroyers and two new auxiliary oiler replenishment ships, and took ownership of its first evolved Cape-class patrol boat.

*Below: Mr David Manolas, National President of the Naval Association of Australia presents, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan with the association's pennant after the Chief of Navy Change of Command Ceremony at Navy Headquarters, Canberra.*

*Photo: LSIS Nadav Harel*



National newsletter of the  
**Naval Association of Australia**

Shipmates,

Following a very productive National Council (NC) Meeting on 23 June 2022, hosted by the NAA SA Section at the Port Adelaide Sub-Section Club Rooms in Port Adelaide, work has begun on collating the outcomes and initiating projects agreed to during our deliberations.

The extent to which wise-counsel and enthusiasm were mingled with very good-natured banter, provides a firm basis for our ongoing endeavours. Some of the matters discussed ranged from: process to address a tied-vote at Section and Sub-Section ballots; the adoption of a NAA Ode to The Naval Veteran; the introduction of a 'Report of Proceedings', as a chronological record of NAA achievements and milestone events; discussion to continue on the possible adaptation of the NAA Badge – anchor to align with our 'parent service' (just as our forebears did in 1920 i.e., adopting the navy anchor design in use at the time); work to commence on developing a Member's Covenant for 'new members'; work to commence on developing an amendment to 'recording of meeting proceedings for the purposes of compiling the Minutes', provisions for the NAA; work to commence on developing a NAA Digital Media policy; a NAA Mission, Vision and Core Objectives Statement, including 'Community Engagement' in our suite of Association objectives, to be made ready for presentation at the next NC Meeting; work to continue on the presentation of revised 'Consideration Times-lines for Constitution and By-Law Changes' to the next NC Meeting; adoption of a NAA QLD motion for the NX to approach Navy to have the NAA included in the RAN Navy People Wellbeing Program, and websites; adoption of an amendment to the By-Laws to provide for the interest accrued from the Life-

Subscriber account to remain within the account so as to support the Fund; no increase in Membership Fees for 2023; and, now that we are mostly able to move about, the payment of PLI will resume as previously prescribed

Then we learnt of the changes to the ADF Senior Appointments; we extend our congratulations to all the newly appointed senior officers and wish them well. For ourselves it is most pleasing to see Vice Admiral David Johnston, Vice Chief of the Defence Force continuing in his position and we will shortly see Rear Admiral Mark Hammond promoted and appointed as Chief of Navy.

As I reflect on our contact with Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, it has been a privilege to bear witness to his support of naval veterans and the NAA. In our time, I believe there has not a more meaningful affirmation that we are part of the navy family than the awarding of the RAN Bereavement Pin being extended to include those who have served i.e., naval veterans. At a time when there are so many accounts of pain and suffering being experienced by ex-service personnel, Admiral Noonan's initiative has proved to be most consolatory and will undoubtedly be seen to be a most significant legacy in the ongoing history of the NAA.

From all within the NAA, we extend our very best wishes and a '*Bravo Zulu*' to our fellow member, Admiral Michael Noonan. It is our hope that he and his loved-ones will always have '*a fair wind and a following sea*' in all their endeavours and, we look forward to welcoming him to a NAA meeting in the future.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

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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

**From:** Alf Jaugietis <[alf.jaugietis@dfwa.org.au](mailto:alf.jaugietis@dfwa.org.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 24 June 2022 3:14 PM

**To:** ADSO Members>

**Subject:** Dishonouring the Australian Flag as a Form of Protest

Hello Folks,

Most everyone who has listened to the news in the last day or so or read a headline on the front page of a major newspaper will have picked up the essence of the way in which the leader of the Australian Greens saw fit to dishonour the Australian Flag.

In his capacity as National President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, Mike von Berg wrote an open letter of protest to Mr Bandt condemning his disgraceful conduct and demanding an apology, notwithstanding that one is unlikely to be forthcoming. A copy of Mike's letter is attached herein.

In his capacity as Acting Chair of ADSO and its National Spokesman at the moment, Mike has also authorised the letter's posting on both the ADSO web site and Facebook page – see here:

<https://www.adso.org.au/rara-open-letter-to-adam-bandt-dishonouring-our-australian-flag/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ADSOAustralia>

Both postings have already drawn media attention because Mike has accepted two radio station interviews with one being on 2GB Drive at 1530 this afternoon with Jim Wilson. Will be worth a listen with access to 2GB Drive.

The forgoing forwarded for your information. ADSO member organisations are invited to participate in the conversation as each may feel it appropriate.

Best Regards

Alf

Alf Jaugietis

Secretary

Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

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### **AN OPEN LETTER**

Mr Adam Bandt MP  
Leader of the Australian Greens  
142 Johnston Street  
Fitzroy, VIC, 3065

### **Sent via email**

Dear Mr Bandt,

### **Reference: THE DISHONOURING OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG AS A FORM OF PROTEST AND PROVOCATIVE SYMBOLISM**

On behalf of our membership, and the veteran's community and their families, your poor and pathetic publicity stunt of dishonoring our Australian national flag, is a disgrace and deserves con-



demnation. Not only is it an insult to the nation broadly, but to every serviceman and woman who has proudly served this country under our flag in war and peace, but the many who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and laid to rest with the Australian national flag draped on their coffin.

Symbols and pranks do nothing in supporting our Indigenous and Torres Strait Island brothers and sisters, where many of us in the ADF, have had the great honour of serving with, and in some cases, fighting alongside of, and sadly burying. The members of the ADF are colour blind and we have done more than many other segments of society in the integration, acceptance and working together at times, in the most extreme and stressful circumstances based on mateship, mutual respect, digger humour and good old-fashioned Australian values.

Mr. Bandt, we all make mistakes, and, in this case, it would not be remiss to admit that you have overreached and that you apologise to the nation but in particular to those that have and are still serving in the ADF. For your conscience, as a servant of the crown there appears to be some conflict and considerable hypocrisy in your actions, and lack of respect for our Australian national flag, in continuing to draw your parliamentary salary and benefits.

If your action and objective was to divide the nation, that objective has failed, in particular within our ADF and veterans' community where the Australian National Flag under which we have all proudly and bravely served, is the glue that binds and defines us.

We demand your public apology.

Sincerely,

Duty First



Michael von Berg MC OAM  
Chair and National President  
Mobile; 0411 87 0055  
Email: [mvb@michaelvonberg.com](mailto:mvb@michaelvonberg.com)

CC The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister  
The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Leader of the Opposition



## The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite MP is the Assistant Minister for Defence, Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and Assistant Minister for the Republic. He is the Labor Member for Kingsford Smith.

Matt was a Senator for New South Wales in the Australian Senate from 2011 to 2013 during which time he served as Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport.

Matt grew up in Maroubra and completed high school at Marist Brothers Pagewood.

He is an active community volunteer and passionate advocate for advancing the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Matt has extensive experience representing workers as a lawyer and trade union official in a range of industries. He is a former General Secretary of NSW Labor and was an Assistant Secretary at Unions NSW, as well as a former Vice President of the Australian Workers Union. Matt has worked as a Senior Consultant with law firm King and Wood Mallesons.

Matt is a former director of the State Transit Authority of NSW. He has been an active surf lifesaver for over 38 years and served four years as President of Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club. He was also the President of Maroubra PCYC and received a distinguished service award from PCYC NSW.



Matt holds a Bachelor of Economics from UNSW, Diploma of Law, and a Diploma of Modern Languages in Chinese. He has a HSK 3 Chinese language qualification.

Matt lives in Matraville with his wife Rachel and their four daughters.

## Report into veterans' claims now public

Friday, 24 June 2022

### The Hon Matt Keogh MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel

A key report into the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) claims processing system has today been made public.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said the report found 37 initiatives which would improve the department's processes, reducing the wait times for veterans and their families.

"We must reduce this claims backlog. It simply isn't good enough to have people who have put on a uniform and served our country wait for such a long time to access the support they are entitled to," Minister Keogh said.

"I believe it's important to be accountable, and to get on with making positive changes as soon as possible, that's why I have asked the Department to release the report publicly.

"We are turning a new leaf here and we want to get on with implementing changes as quickly as possible to improve the wait times for veterans. That means employing more staff in the Department and to move away from labour hire so we can build and retain the skills and experience needed to support Veterans and their families as they so deserve.

"We want to alleviate any pressure the veteran community are [sic] feeling, and that's why improving DVA's compensation claims and payments processing system is so important."

In September 2021 DVA commissioned independent consultants McKinsey & Company to examine the claims processing system. McKinsey worked closely with the department, ex-service organisations and other members of the veteran community and considered submissions in their investigation.

McKinsey identified 11 priority initiatives and created an implementation plan for the Department. Some initiatives had not been resourced by the previous government and we are working through those now. DVA has commenced planning and implementation, and is working with Government to prioritise further efforts.

The full report can be read on the [Department of Veterans' Affairs website](#).

#### MEDIA CONTACT

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office): +61 407 034 485 DVA Media: [media.team@dva.gov.au](mailto:media.team@dva.gov.au)

*Authorised by The Hon Matt Keogh MP*

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling** provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or [openarms.gov.au](http://openarms.gov.au).

**Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or [defence.gov.au/health/healthportal](http://defence.gov.au/health/healthportal). **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

## Australian Defence Force Leadership announcement

28 June 2022 ABC News

The following announcement was made by the Minister for Defence.

Chief of Defence General Angus Campbell will have his term extended by two years despite being due to end his time in the top job in July.

Vice Chief of the Defence Force David Johnston and Chief of Joint Operations Greg Bilton will also have their terms extended by another two years.

Mark Hammond will become Chief of Navy, Simon Stuart Chief of Army and Robert Chipman will become Chief of Air Force.

Defence Minister Richard Marles announced the appointments and said while there had been improvements in the diversity of ADF staff, more work was needed to boost the number of women in senior levels of the military.

He insisted the men appointed were the best people to lead the Defence Force.

"The decisions have been made against the backdrop of who we believe are the most capable people to fill these roles," he said.

**Mark Hammond** joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1986 as an electronics technician at HMAS *Cerberus*. He was commissioned as a naval officer in 1988 and is a graduate of the RAN Recruit School (1986); the Australian Defence Force Academy (1990); Australian Command and Staff College (2004); and the Centre for Defence Strategic Studies (2014).

He completed seamanship and navigation training in various ships then volunteered for submarine service. Qualifying in Oberon Class submarines in 1994, Hammond joined HMAS *Collins* as Navigating Officer in 1996 (during First of Class Trials), and later served as Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Navy. He subsequently completed the Principal Warfare Officer's Course and Submarine Warfare Course in 1998, and served as the commissioning Operations Officer in HMAS *Waller*. In 2001 Rear Admiral Hammond instructed the Submarine Warfare Officer Course and assumed duties as Executive Officer in HMAS *Sheean*. In 2003 Hammond completed the Netherlands Submarine Command Course (Perisher) and the US Navy's Prospective Commanding Officer Course.

Serving as Staff Officer Future Concepts at Naval Headquarters in late 2003 he graduated from the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2004. Hammond then deployed on operations with the Royal Navy Submarine force, before assuming command of HMAS *Farncomb* and completing two years of demanding operations in the Indo Pacific region.



Subsequent shore postings included Assistant Naval Attaché - Washington DC, USA; Director Future Submarines - Operational Requirements; Joint Exercise Director (J75) at Joint Operations Command; Director Submarine Sub-Program (Collins and Future Submarines); and Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force, performing the latter role for General Hurley from November 2012 to December 2013.

In late 2014 Commodore Hammond was appointed as Director General Maritime Operations, exercising operational control of the Navy's ships, submarines and detachments, before relocating in 2017 to the United States for duties in the Pentagon as the Chief of Defence Force Liaison Officer to General Joseph Dunford, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rear Admiral Hammond returned to Australia in March 2018 to assume duties as the Deputy Chief of Navy. On 17 November 2020 he was appointed as the Commander Australian Fleet based in Sydney and responsible for the raise, train and sustain activities for the Australian fleet.

Rear Admiral Hammond has sea experience in French, British and US nuclear attack submarines, Australian and Dutch conventional submarines, and multiple surface vessels. Academic qualifications include Bachelor of Science (UNSW, ADFA, 1991); Masters in Management (Defence Studies, UCAN, 2004); and Masters in Maritime Studies (UoW, 2005).



## HMAS *Encounter* recommissioned

**HMAS *Encounter* has been recommissioned as a naval base for RAN Headquarters SA. The base will remain at the Keswick Barracks, Adelaide until relocation to the Defence shipbuilding and maintenance precinct at Osborne. The local capability will be instrumental as Navy transitions towards a future fleet, which will include Hunter Class frigates, Arafura-Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, and Nuclear-Powered submarines.**

The commissioning ceremony was conducted at the Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide on Saturday 28th May 2022 with the RAN Band, parade and guard in front of invited guests and the public

The commanding officer of HMAS *Encounter*, Commander Emma McDonald-Kerr, said South Australia is home for many personnel.

"Navy's number one capability is our people, and our people are a reflection of our community. HMAS *Encounter*'s motto is 'Stronger Together', which speaks directly to the importance of us working hand-in-hand with the South Australian community," McDonald-Kerr said.

Beyond shipbuilding, Defence stated, the Navy contributes to a range of joint capabilities in South



*Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO RAN inspects the guard at the recommissioning ceremony*

Australia, including science and technology, remote sensor and surveillance, electronic warfare, personnel management, recruitment and experimentation.

When HMAS *Encounter* was decommissioned in June 1994, a Navy Support Office South Australia, later Navy Headquarters-SA (NHQ-SA) was established in Keswick Barrack, HMAS *Encounter* was previously a naval establishment at Birkenhead near Port Adelaide from 1965 to 1994.

### NAA National Council with CO HMAS *Encounter* at Port Adelaide Club Rooms 23 June 2022

*Front Row: Jean Stewart, Graham Thomas, Russell Pettis, Glenn Williams, Ian Holthouse, CMDR Emma MacDonald-Kerr RAN, David Manolas, Helen Yentch, Cheryl Fittock, Lorraine Grey, Kaye Morgan*  
*Rear Row: Graham Savage, Helga Jongewaard, Brian Ellis, Warren Browning, Peter Cooke-Russell, Eileen Calway, Gordon Fuller, Keith Grimley, Pat McKay:*

Photo: Kaye Morgan



## Veteran Transition Strategy

**From:** "ESORT.SECRETARIAT" <ESORT.SECRETARIAT@dva.gov.au>

**Date:** 27 June 2022 at 16:21:57 AEST

**Subject:** The Veteran Strategy - Opportunity to Provide Feedback

Good afternoon Colleagues

Forwarding the following on behalf of the Joint Transition Authority;

*The Joint Transition Authority committed to the development of a Veteran Transition Strategy in partnership with DVA and CSC. The development of this Strategy has been informed by the many consultation sessions conducted, and particularly by the Minister's Round Table conducted on 29 Oct 21. The attached document is being provided to the ESORT, CSTC, IAC, YVF, and to those who participated in the Minister's Round Table last year. The graphics and Minister's Forward have yet to be inserted, but the Strategy is at a stage where we would like to offer you the opportunity to provide feedback. We seek your support to have feedback submitted to [jta.coordination@defence.gov.au](mailto:jta.coordination@defence.gov.au) no later than 11 Jul 22.*

Regards

Tiki Stephens

**Extract: Page 6 of the Strategy**

### Purpose of the Veteran Transition Strategy

For the transition ecosystem<sup>2</sup> to be able to best prepare and support veterans and families<sup>3</sup> so they transition well and go on to live fulfilling lives, a shared vision is required. The purpose of this Veteran Transition Strategy is to align the transition ecosystem to this vision and also provide guidance on how the transition experiences and outcomes of veterans and families can be improved.

A range of factors can underpin how well an individual transitions [transits] into a predominately civilian life and in recognition that every transition journey is unique, this Strategy considers the individual circumstances of transitioning veterans and their families to support how services are developed and delivered. This is supported through a wellbeing approach.

Importantly, the Strategy outlines six priorities for the transition ecosystem to work towards, with a view to improving both the transition experience and the transition outcomes of veterans and their families. These priorities are listed below and are discussed further throughout the strategy:

- Veterans and their families plan and prepare early for transition

- Veterans and their families are aware of and able to access support appropriate to their needs
- Families are engaged through transition
- Veterans and their families have access to employment, education and skills opportunities
- Financial wellbeing for veterans and their families
- Veterans and their families feel supported and recognised.

The Strategy will be responsive to external influences to ensure currency and ecosystem alignment. External influences that may impact on transition include but are not limited to:

- advancements in the health, medical and wellbeing fields;
- the rapidly changing nature of warfare;
- the employment and workforce landscape which is directly impacted by advances in technology and by global events such as COVID-19; and,
- the findings and recommendations of future reviews, inquiries and research.

The Strategy will be reviewed in the second half of 2024 once the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has handed down its final report.

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2 Transition Ecosystem in the context of this Strategy includes veterans and their families, Defence including the Joint Transition Authority, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, ex-service organisations, veteran support and community groups including Veteran Wellbeing Centres, research and academic bodies, state, territory and other government agencies, and industry and employers.

3 Veteran in the context of this Strategy is a person who is serving or has served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Family refers to the people who have supported a veteran's ADF service, regardless of the time their association with the veteran commenced, and on whom the veteran relies to support them in their transition



## Extracts from Census 2021 — Australian Defence Force Service

### Key findings

According to the 2021 Census:

- There were 581,100 people who had ever served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), 2.8% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over.
- Townsville, QLD had a higher number of current service (5,500 people) and previous service (8,700 people) members than any other region (at the SA3 level).
- One in twenty (5.3%) Australian households (dwellings) had at least one person who had served in the ADF (that is, at least one person who was either currently serving or had previously served in the ADF).
- 13% of previous service members needed assistance with the core activities of self-care, mobility or communication.
- Three in five (60%) previous service members had a long-term health condition.

People who had served in the ADF were more likely to have volunteered in the previous 12 months (21%) than those who had never served in the ADF (15%).

### Definitions

**Previous service** includes former ADF members aged 15 years and over who served in Regular or Reserve services (including the National Service and the Second Australian Imperial Force) who are not currently serving in the ADF.

**Total ever served** includes those currently serving and those with previous service in the ADF.

**Never served** includes all people aged 15 years and over with no current or previous service in the ADF.

Note this analysis does not capture people who have served in non-Australian defence forces and excludes overseas visitors.

### Population

According to the 2021 Census, there was a total of 581,100 people who had ever served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), 2.8% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over. Of those who had ever served in the ADF:

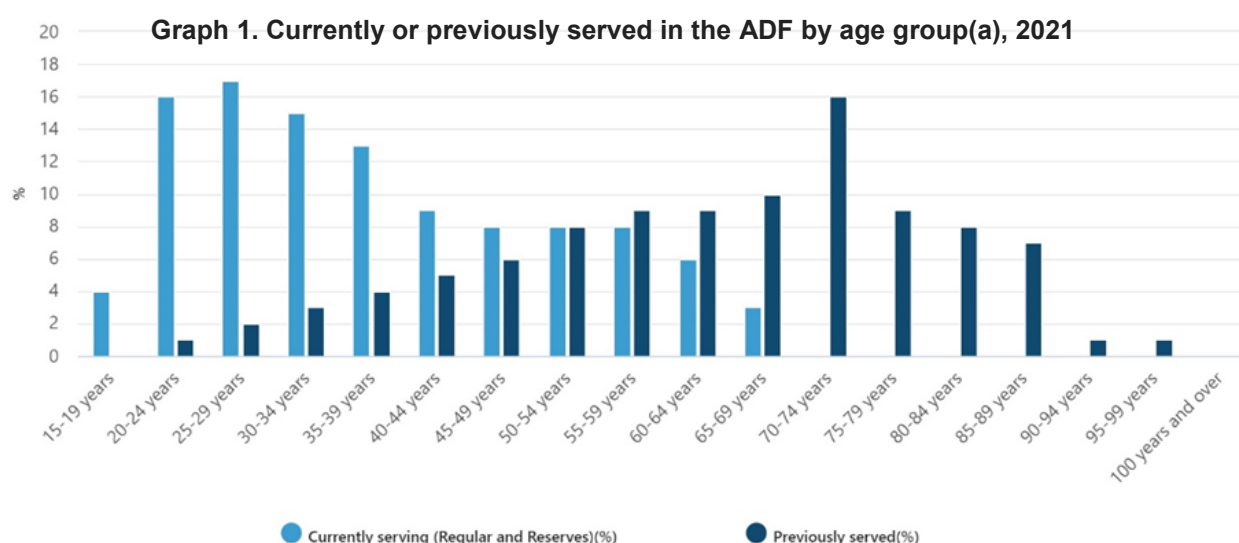
- 10.4% (60,300 people) were currently serving in Regular service
- 4.2% (24,600 people) were currently serving in the Reserves service
- 85.4% (496,300 people) had previously served in either the Reserve or Regular service and were not currently serving.

Among those who were currently serving:

- 79.4% were male (67,400 people)
- 20.6% were female (17,500 people)
- The average age of those in the Regular service was 34 years

The average age of those in the Reserves service was 41 years.

Among previous service members, the most common 5-year age group was 70 - 74 years (16% or 81,800 people). In 1964, selective conscription was introduced in Australia, which meant that 20-year-old men were chosen, through a ballot system, to serve in the Australian Army. The scheme ran from 1964 - 1972, increasing the size of the army by 40,000 people (2). Individuals conscripted through this process would be between 69 and 76 years old today, explaining the high count in that age group



- (a) Proportions in each age group are calculated based on the national total of people who had currently or previously served in the ADF. Please see Australian Defence Force service ([ADFP](#)) variable.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Defence Force service 29/06/2022

## Extracts from Census 2021 — Australian Defence Force Service

### Need for assistance

The 2021 Census measured the number of people who needed assistance with the core activities of self-care, mobility or communication in their day to day lives because of disability, long-term health conditions or old age. See Census Dictionary for more information on [core activity need for assistance](#).

The likelihood of having a need for assistance increases with age (see the [Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2018](#)). Given the younger age profile of current service members, and the fitness and aptitude requirements to enter a role (5), among the 84,900 people currently serving just 1.2% needed assistance, with those aged 45-64 years more likely to need assistance (2.2%) than those aged 15-44 years (<1%).

Among the 496,300 people who had previously served in the ADF aged 15 years and over, 13% needed assistance. Whether a person needed assistance varied according to whether previous service members served in the Regular or Reserve service, and by age. According to the 2021 Census:

- 4.7% of people aged 15-44 years who had previously served in the Regular service needed assistance, compared with 1.5% of those who had served in the Reserves service only and 2.4% of those who had never served
- 8.1% of people aged 45-64 years who had previously served in the Regular service needed assistance, almost twice the rate of those who had previously served in the Reserves service only

(4.8%) and those who had never served (4.6%)

- 22.1% of people aged 65 years and over who had previously served in the Regular service needed assistance, higher than those who had served in the Reserves service only (16.9%) and those who had never served in the ADF (19%).

### Long-term health conditions

The 2021 Census measured the number of people who reported that they had at least one selected long-term health condition, including arthritis, asthma and mental health conditions. See Census Dictionary for more information on [long-term health conditions](#).

It is important to note that the short question used to collect this information provides useful information about the prevalence of long-term health conditions among small population groups or for smaller geographic regions, however for national and state prevalence estimates of long-term health conditions, see the [ABS National Health Survey](#). For national and state prevalence estimates of mental disorders, see the [ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing](#).

According to the 2021 Census, current service members were less likely to report a long-term health condition than those with previous service and those who had never served, reflecting the general physical and mental fitness, and younger age profile of this population. Of the 84,900 people who were currently serving in the ADF (aged 15-64 years):

**Table 5. Top 15 regional areas (SA3) for previous service members of the ADF, 2021**

Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)	no.	%
Townsville, QLD	8,661	1.7
Toowoomba, QLD	5,063	1.0
Rockingham, WA	4,717	1.0
Onkaparinga, SA	4,696	1.0
Mornington Peninsula, VIC	4,394	0.9
Ipswich Inner, QLD	4,217	0.9
Shoalhaven, NSW	4,123	0.8
Newcastle, NSW	4,083	0.8
Geelong, VIC	4,068	0.8
Gosford, NSW	3,877	0.8
Mandurah, WA	3,857	0.8
Wyong, NSW	3,735	0.8
Joondalup, WA	3,638	0.7
Stirling, WA	3,577	0.7
Tuggeranong, ACT	3,499	0.7

## Extracts from Census 2021 — Australian Defence Force Service

- around one in five (22%) reported they had one or more long-term health conditions, with rates similar between males and females (21% and 23% respectively)
- younger current service members (15-44 years) were less likely to report a long-term health condition (16%) than those aged 45-64 years (38%)

The most common long-term health conditions reported by current service members were:

- mental health conditions (including depression and anxiety) (7% of all currently serving members)
- arthritis (6%)
- asthma (5%)

It is likely that the short question used in the Census to collect long-term health condition information underestimates the number and proportion of people with mental health conditions. For more information, see [Comparing ABS long-term health conditions data sources](#).

Service in the ADF can increase a person's exposure to stressful and sometimes dangerous situations, which can increase the likelihood of developing a range of physical and mental health conditions, which may not emerge until after the completion of service (6). This, together with the older age profile of previous service members, is a likely contributor to the higher incidence of long-term health conditions among those who had previously served in the ADF compared with the population who had never served.

Of the 496,300 people aged 15 years and over who had previously served in the ADF:

- three in five (60%) had a long-term health condition
- those who had previously served in the Regular service were more likely to report a long-term health condition than those whose previous service was in the Reserves only, regardless of age.

The two most common long-term health conditions reported by previous service members were:

- arthritis (23%)
- heart disease (16%)

The incidence of selected long-term health conditions varied somewhat between those who served in the Regular and Reserve service, particularly for mental health conditions. Among those who had previously served in the ADF, those who had served in the Regular service were more likely to report a mental health condition (18%) than those who had served in the Reserves service only (10%).

Reflecting their older age profile, previous service members were more likely to report each of the selected long-term health conditions than those who had never served, with the exception of asthma. This reflects in part the change in eligibility

criteria for the ADF, which prior to 2007 prevented anyone with a history of asthma (within the previous 5 years) from entering the ADF (7).

### Volunteering

People who had served in the ADF were more likely to have volunteered in the previous 12 months than those who had never served in the ADF. According to the 2021 Census, of the 581,100 people who had ever served in the ADF, around one in five (21%) had volunteered in the past year, compared with 15% of those who had never served.

Women were more likely to have volunteered in the previous 12 months regardless of their type of service. Among those who had ever served, women who had previously served in the Reserves service only were most likely to report that they had volunteered in the previous 12 months (27%).

### Living arrangements

Of the 581,100 people who had ever served in the ADF:

- 94% (547,900 people) were at home (at their usual residence) on Census Night
- 5.7% (33,200 people) were elsewhere in Australia on Census Night.

Almost one in ten (10%) current service members were away from home on Census Night, twice that of previous service members (5%), reflecting the mobile nature of a current service role.

Of those who had never served in the ADF (aged 15 years and over) just 3.6% were away from home on Census Night.

### Type of dwelling

Service with the ADF can affect where a person lives. While Reservists may live at any location across Australia, those in the Regular service generally reside on or near an ADF base in a private dwelling such as their own home or an ADF Service Residence (4), or in a non-private dwelling such as a barracks.

Of the 547,900 people who had ever served in the ADF and were at home (at their usual residence) on Census Night, most (97% or 529,300 people) lived in a private household (dwelling).

(2) National Archives of Australia – the conscription lottery, [www.naa.gov.au/learn/learning-resources/learning-resource-themes/war/vietnam-war/national-service-ballot-balls-conscription-lottery](http://www.naa.gov.au/learn/learning-resources/learning-resource-themes/war/vietnam-war/national-service-ballot-balls-conscription-lottery), last viewed 19 May 2022

(4) Defence Housing Australia, 'Housing', <https://www.dha.gov.au/housing>, last viewed 26 May 2022

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### To read full summary , go to

[www.abs.gov.au/articles/australian-defence-force-service](http://www.abs.gov.au/articles/australian-defence-force-service)



## We're in the dark on power struggle

The Australian 10/6/22, 10.10 am <https://todayspaper.theaustralian.com.au/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=8cfa33da-7997-4b17-b972-6675852a2c71>

### We're in the dark on power struggle

GRAHAM LLOYD ANALYSIS

Australia's low-emissions energy journey is locked in a struggle between engineering and hope.

The nation has lost its way on energy because it has failed to think long term, excluded emerging technologies from the discussion, and refused to learn the lessons of failure from elsewhere.

Debate this week about how a capacity market should work to keep the lights on and industry in business underscores the point.

Too many people with too little understanding have turned a problem of physics and engineering into one of politics and economics.

The breakdown in electricity supply is as serious as it has been predictable.

Engineers know that grinding the coal sector into the ground won't make renewables produce electricity when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining.

Leaving gas in the ground, as NSW and Victoria have done, won't power a back-up supply.

Stealing back supplies of gas from companies that have contracted to sell it elsewhere will compound the problems.

Governments generally don't last long enough to reap the product of the chaos they sow. But new governments should learn the mistakes of others.

Contrary to popular opinion, Germany's transition away from nuclear power has not been fuelled by wind and solar. It has been powered by greater use of brown coal and a dependence on Russian Gas.

Power shortages in South Australia, California, Texas, UK and Europe all share a common feature, a naive hope that renewable energy will do the job it is not equipped to do.

Politicians have been cowered into supporting solutions they don't understand. No serious thinker believes it's economically sensible to firm up a national grid with batteries but a whole industry is willing to take government money to give it a try.

It might well be an expensive fix for individual households, but not industry. Spending billions to extend the national grid is based on the premise that the wind will always be blowing somewhere.

The reality is this is not necessarily the case.

Hydrogen is a promising technology but experts who have worked in the field maintain it is a dangerous substance, difficult to contain and invisible when it burns. From an environmental perspective,

the vast amount of materials and area of land needed to attempt what is being proposed using wind, solar, batteries, pumped hydro, hydrogen and transmission lines does not meet the cost/benefit test. A bigger concern is electricity is only a small part of the challenge ahead. Bigger and more important for industry is process heat, something that wind and solar can never deliver.

Alinta Energy chief executive Jeff Dimery belled the cat this week that the energy crisis was caused by chaotic market planning that had swamped the country with renewables that in turn made coal uncompetitive.

"We're committing economic suicide if we rush and try to do it too quickly when we haven't got the alternative supplies in place," he told a Melbourne conference.

To illustrate the point, he said renewable energy plants in South Australia last Wednesday at 6.15pm were producing one megawatt of electricity, a tiny fraction of capacity. There was no wind in Victoria either.

"So it wouldn't have mattered if you doubled the capacity of the transmission, and it wouldn't have mattered if you quadrupled the capacity of intermittent generation.

Without coal and gas, the lights would have gone out in South Australia, that is a fact," he said.

Watching on, as the nation's energy thinkers look for Band-Aid solutions to potentially fatal conditions in the energy market is the former head of Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Adi Paterson, who has also commercialised pioneering research on lithium ion batteries and participated hydrogen policy work in South Africa.

Paterson says the nation is locked in a false struggle. "This debate has become about economics and the universal law of economics is that it does not trump physics," he says.

"We have the burden of explaining more clearly to people what the real energy choices look like. Carbon-free process heat is a much bigger problem than electricity.

And the fundamental problem is, if we are going to electrify everything, we are going to need reliable, predictable, 'always-on' electricity for a rational society to function. With the energy cost issues, people are starting to see that when you take the baseload out the costs go up."

He said it was important to have an intergenerational view of the problem: "We do not have to do it all in 10 years. In the next century, I believe, if we just take off the false time problem, we will be looking for the highest density of energy we can get, and at the top of that pile is nuclear fusion."

There are critics who can point to decades of promises but the world is looking to new-generation nu-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Improving the quality of claims advocacy for veterans

24 June 2022

From 1 July, new service standards are being introduced for ex-service organisations (ESOs) that receive funding under the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants program for the provision of claims advocacy support.

The guidelines for the BEST program have been updated to include the new service standards, and recipients of a BEST grant are required to adhere to the new standards. Advocates who provide services on behalf of ESOs that do not receive a BEST grant are also encouraged to voluntarily adopt the service standards to ensure veterans receive consistent and high quality claims advocacy advice and services.

Making a claim can be complex, and veterans and families face a diverse range of challenging circumstances.

The more advocates that opt in and follow the standards, the greater the benefit will be for the veteran community, as the claims advocacy support being provided will be of a consistently high standard.

A new assurance process will also be introduced to ensure funding under the BEST grants program is being shared equitably, and is going to where it is needed the most. The assurance process will include checking the number of claims where assistance was provided by ESOs.

The BEST grants program aims to support the

work of ESOs that play an important role in connecting veterans and families with DVA services and support, providing valuable claims assistance and welfare advocacy services.

For more information on the BEST grants [visit the DVA website](#). **Non capital Equipment** costs may be covered in the application;

- **Internet Equipment:** Based on network set-up, number of stand-alone PCs, laptops, wireless for laptops being used remotely. Internet modems for Dial Up, Broadband and wireless;
- **Internet Access:** Establishment fees and on-going access costs.
- **Office Supplies:** General stationery, postage, paper, toner, ink, folders, tapes, cleaning products, read/write DVDs, brochure holder, flash drives.
- **Telephone Costs:** Landline and mobile phone calls related to the provision of pension and welfare services.

**Travel:** Reimbursement for travel, only within the local area for any of the following reasons; pensions, welfare and advocacy work, travel to nearby VRB and AAT hearings and travel to TIP training courses. Travel should be calculated at the rate of 34.1 cents per kilometre when practitioners use their own motor vehicles (subject to the travel exclusions listed at *Clause 8* the BEST Guidelines). A Travel Log detailing the kilometres travelled, purpose of journey, date(s) of travel and attributed costs for each journey will be required.

## We're in the dark on power struggle

*(Continued from page 12)*

clear reactors and fusion to solve the problem of low-emissions electrification to run a developed industrial economy.

In the domain of nuclear fission, the first small-scale modular nuclear reactor by a US firm NuScale is under construction and will be completed this decade.

The US National Academies road map has set a time line to build nuclear fusion reactors from 2035. Australian company HB11 Energy, of which Paterson is a director, is leading the world in - exploring nuclear fusion using a new generation of high-energy lasers. The technology won a Nobel Prize for the inventors and can bring decades of theory into reality. HB11 Energy is looking at the 2040s to have a plant operating based on the principles of inertial fusion using lasers.

Despite this, nuclear fission and fusion technology are not part of Australia's official energy discussion.

Jim Chalmers, says he has ruled out nuclear energy because "the economics don't stack up".

The Treasurer said he had never been a supporter of nuclear power and would maintain his opposition

to it, which was "economic not ideological".

Paterson says this view misunderstands the problem.

"There is a tendency to oversimplify," he says. "I think the fundamental problem of wind and solar is it is highly accessible to the domestic consumer but most of what is useful in our society we don't really understand. You can win an argument by saying solar, wind and batteries because people understand it.

"I think we need to have this discussion about fission and fusion as a low-cost source of electrons because it gives us predictability and optionality.

"It will give us a stab at solving the energy problem not just the electricity problem. The question for wind, solar and batteries is 'Where is the process heat?' "If we solve the issue of nuclear fusion plants – because they will also provide process heat for - industry – they will be the anchor tenant of most modern economies from about 2060."

This line might not suit the catastrophisation narrative of a climate emergency. But at least it might just work.



## HMAS Sydney II Unknown Sailor Re-Dedication Ceremony

Almost eighty-one years after HMAS Sydney II was sunk, the Royal Australian Navy re-dedicated the remains of Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark in the War Graves at Geraldton Cemetery, Western Australia.

Previously referred to as the HMAS Sydney II unknown sailor, Able Seaman Clark was formally identified after extensive DNA research in 2021. The re-dedication ceremony honoured the bravery of Able Seaman Clark and his 644 shipmates

Geraldton RSL President Barry Stinson said it was good to finally provide closure to AB Clark's family.

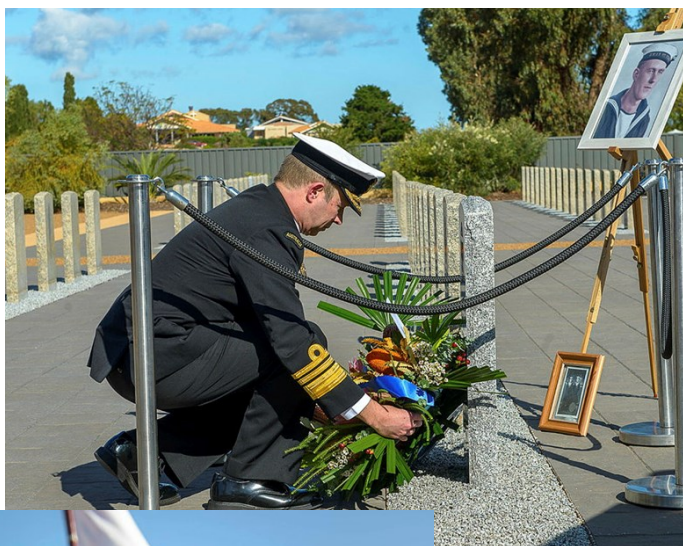
"For so long, no one knew the fate of the crew of HMAS Sydney II and then to be able to identify one sole person who possibly survived the battle on the day of the 19th of November, 1941," he said.

"But to now be able to put a name to that gives closure to his family now and also to a lot of other people that were wondering what happened to their ancestors as well."

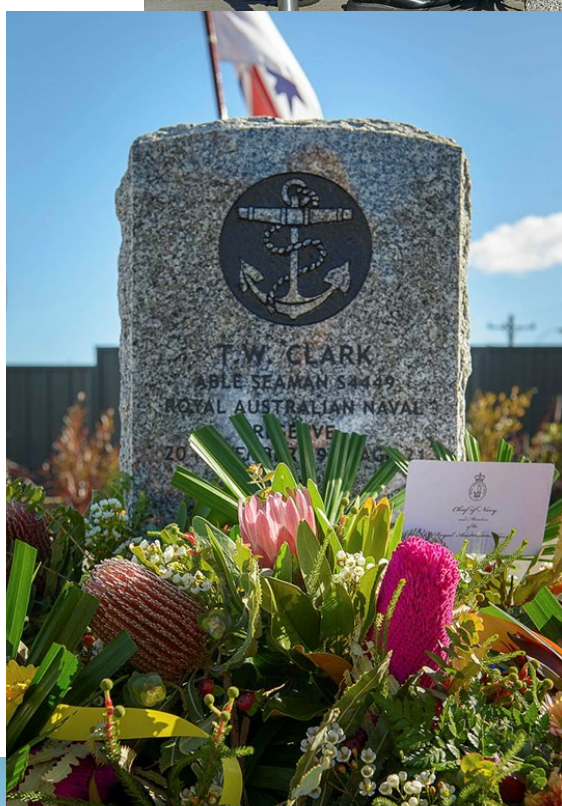
Former Geraldton RSL president Ross Davies was there in 2008 when the then-unknown sailor was re-interred at Geraldton War Cemetery.

Fourteen years later, Mr Davies said it was nice to get some answers but he had mixed emotions when they identified the sailor last year.

"It's great that his family has closure but on the other hand I always liked the idea that it could have been anyone's relative," he said.



Top: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO, lays a wreath in honour of Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark, who was recently revealed as the HMAS Sydney II "Unknown Sailor" at the headstone re-dedication ceremony at Geraldton War Cemetery



Centre: The re-dedicated headstone for Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark was unveiled at a small ceremony in the Geraldton War Cemetery grounds on Friday 24 June 2022.



Text : From the Defence/RAN Website and the West Australian Newspaper/ Geraldton Guardian—27 June 2022

Photos Sgt Gary Dixon

Left: Mr Colin Clark, nephew of Thomas Welsby Clark the recently revealed identity of the HMAS Sydney II "Unknown Sailor" is greeted by The Honourable Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister for Veteran Affairs ahead of the headstone re-dedication ceremony.



## Talk to your GP about a Veteran Health Check

17 June 2022

If you have been to your general practitioner (GP)'s office recently you may have seen digital displays and flyers about the Veteran Health Check program. DVA has provided GPs across Australia with information to help promote awareness of this important program to veterans who have recently transitioned from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to civilian life.

The Veteran Health Check has been specifically designed to help you identify early physical or mental health concerns. The comprehensive health check covers all aspects of health and wellbeing, including physical and mental health. After that, you can get the best help possible through a referral to another service or immediate treatment.

If you transitioned out of the ADF **on or after 1 July 2019**, you are eligible for the *Annual Veteran Health Check*. This service allows you to build a relationship with your local GP as you will have an

appointment annually every year for the first five years after you leave the ADF. You can access this service through your DVA Veteran Card and it is at no cost to the veteran.

If you have transitioned **on or before 30 June 2019**, you can access the *One-off Veteran Health Check*. This type of health check is eligible for a benefit through Medicare, so you do not need to be a DVA Veteran Card holder to access the *One-off Veteran Health Check*.

Keep on top of your health and book in for your Veteran Health Check. When you call your GP practice, let them know you are booking in for a Veteran Health Check and would like a 45 minute appointment. Just make sure your GP accepts the DVA Veteran Card. To learn more, visit the [DVA website](#).

If you have not received a DVA White Card and you think that you are eligible, please call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit MyService to apply online.

## Royal Commission 20 June 2022

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has begun a public hearing in Townsville, where the city's most senior serving ADF member, Brigadier Kahlil Fegan will give evidence about training, alcohol use, domestic violence and mental health assessments at the nation's largest Army base.

The Commission heard Brigadier Fegan from Lavarack Barracks will also be asked how the base engages with families and support organisations during and after deployment.

Townsville is the nation's largest garrison city and home to around 20,000 Defence personnel and veterans.

Erin Longbottom QC, assisting the Commission, said the concentration of serving and ex-serving members in Townsville provided an important opportunity to examine the systemic issues and risk factors that contribute to suicide in the Defence and veteran community.

"Amongst the matters that will be a particular focus of inquiry over the next two weeks are the possible contributions of deployment, transition, separation and post-service issues to suicide and suicidality," Ms Longbottom said.

Other witnesses to appear in Townsville include the former Veterans' Affairs ministers The Hon. Andrew Gee MP and The Hon. Darren Chester MP, and the Chief of the Australian Defence Force General Angus Campbell.

The Commission has heard that in contrast to previous hearings, lived experience evidence will not

play a major role in Townsville.

"It is important to emphasise that we recognise the significant contribution of lived experience witnesses to the work of the Royal Commission," Ms Longbottom said.

"We continue to engage with lived experience witnesses and expect to hear further evidence from those witnesses at upcoming hearing blocks."

Commission Chair Nick Kaldas said there had been more deaths by suicide of serving and ex-serving Defence members since the last hearing in Canberra.

"We offer our deepest condolences to everyone grieving the loss of a family member, colleague or friend," Commissioner Kaldas said.

"This ongoing tragedy underscores the vital work of this Commission."

The Commission has received more than 1,600 submissions. Each contribution is carefully reviewed and will help inform the Commission's reports and recommendations.

The Commission's Interim Report is due in August.

Anyone affected by Defence and veteran suicide, or by the challenges of Defence life, is encouraged to [make a submission- external site](#).

The hearing is open to the public and anyone who wishes to attend is required to [register- external site](#).

The proceedings can also be [viewed live](#) on the homepage.

## RAN Tours

Exercise SEA EXPLORER is the second of three training activities in the annual SEA SERIES to hone and certify Australia's Amphibious Forces. At right, An Australian Army Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment prepares to disembark from one of HMAS *Adelaide*'s Landing Craft near Cowley Beach Training Area, during Exercise Sea Explorer 2022.



Australian Army Eurocopter Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter from the 1st Aviation Regiment prepare to launch from HMAS *Adelaide* during Exercise Sea Explorer 2022.

Cowley Beach is approximately 20 nm north of Dunk Island

Five Royal Australian Navy ships across two task groups are currently conducting regional presence deployments throughout the Indo-Pacific region. At right, HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Warramunga* conduct a dual replenishment at sea with USNS *Yukon* as they sail through the Pacific Ocean.



HMAS *Parramatta* is currently undertaking a Regional Presence Deployment through the Indo-Pacific region. During its deployment the ship will undertake maritime exercises and other engagements with Australia's regional partners. At left, HMAS *Parramatta* arrives at Busan Naval Base during her visit to the Republic of Korea while conducting a regional presence deployment.



## Australian War Memorial Canberra Hall of Memory—Stained glass windows

There are stained-glass windows on three sides of the Hall of Memory, each window divided into five panels. Each of the fifteen panels features a figure in the uniform and equipment of the First World War, and typifies one of the quintessential qualities displayed by Australians in war.

The designer, Napier Waller, suggested that each window be divided into five tall panels. His aim was “to produce through repetition, and a broad monotone of blue and grey, a serenity of effect with a dim cathedral light. At the bottom of each window are fragmentary remains from destruction and war.”

The figures of the west window represent social qualities. The one pictured at right represents ancestry and is of a naval gunner. The symbols in the design are associated with European traditions: a wreath and open book represent reverence for knowledge, cricket stumps and ball stand for recreation, and the church spire for religion. The flag signals “engage the enemy at close quarters”.

Born in Victoria in 1893, Napier Waller trained as an artist. He lost his right arm at the battle of Bullecourt and on his return to Australia taught himself to paint left handed. He preferred to work in stained glass and murals and his work can be found in the Melbourne Town Hall, the State Library and Myer Emporium. His most stunning mosaics grace the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial.

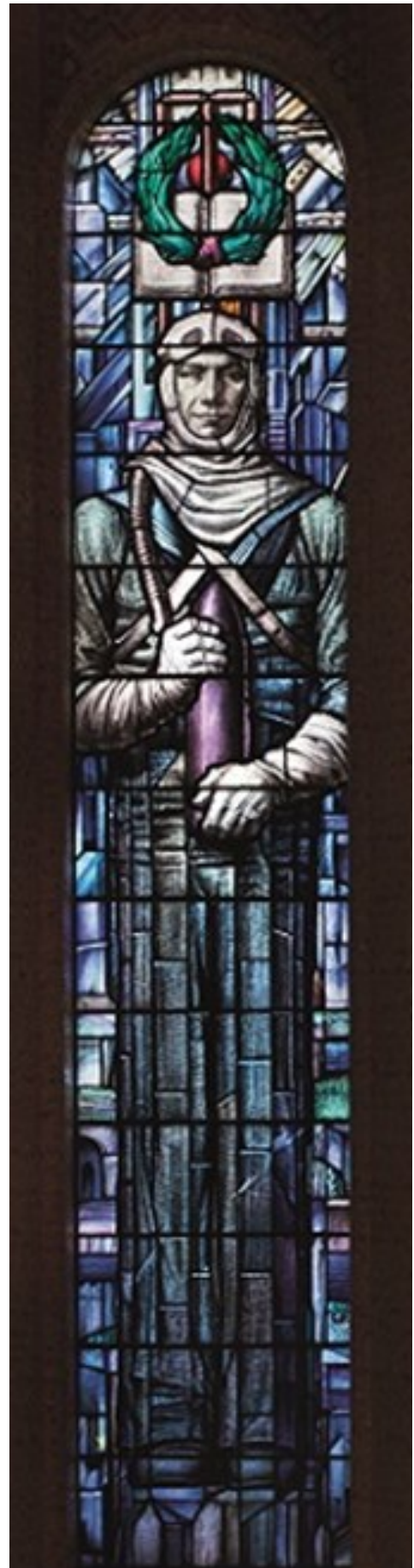
He was awarded an OBE in his lifetime and died in 1972.



*HMAS Brisbane's bridge and forward 5-inch gun turret on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra*

AWM

There something about a war memorial that brings out feelings of patriotism and empathy in everyone. The Australian War Memorial does just that and so much more; it talks about how war has shaped Australia's identity and speaks about the valiant sacrifices made for the honour of the country. The museum is touching and memorable, with plenty of audio-visuals packed in for special effect. The tomb of the unknown soldier has a certain melancholy attached to it that moves the visitor.





## Reduction of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net thresholds

1 July 2022

Veterans will benefit from the Australian Government's announcement to lower the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net threshold.

The change will apply to Veteran Card holders who currently access medication under the PBS and Repatriation Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme (RPBS).

Veterans have greater access to medicines through the RPBS. The changes to lower the PBS Safety Net threshold will reduce medicine costs for those meeting the threshold sooner, for the remainder of the calendar year.

For concessional patients, the Safety Net threshold will be lowered from \$326.40 to \$244.80, an \$81.60 reduction. This means veterans with a Veteran Gold, White or Orange Card, or blue Pensioner Concession Card, will reach the Safety Net threshold after 36 full priced concessional scripts, and will receive PBS and RPBS medicines at no charge for the rest of the calendar year. Please note the Safety Net is applied to the lowest priced items and excludes higher priced (premium) brand medicines. Any extra charge for a higher priced brand is paid by the patient, together with their usual patient contribution.

No action is required. The reduced threshold will automatically occur from 1 July 2022. Speak to your pharmacist about your PBS and RPBS entitlements to more accessible and affordable medicine.

This applies to all Veteran Card holders who are currently accessing PBS or RPBS medications. To learn more about your entitlements offered with your Veteran card, [visit the DVA website](#).

## 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:1800838372)

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](mailto: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](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)

Further information can be found via the Department of Health website, at [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | The Safety Net Scheme](#) or [Reduction of PBS Safety Net Thresholds – Frequently Asked Questions](#).

*Four MH60R Romeo Seahawk Military Combat Helicopters from 725 Squadron and 816 Squadron provide a four-ship formation fly past over Chief of Navy Change of Command Ceremony at Navy Headquarters, Canberra*

