

National Bosun's Call



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National Newsletter of the **Naval Association of Australia**

ANZAC Day March 2022 at the AWM Canberra



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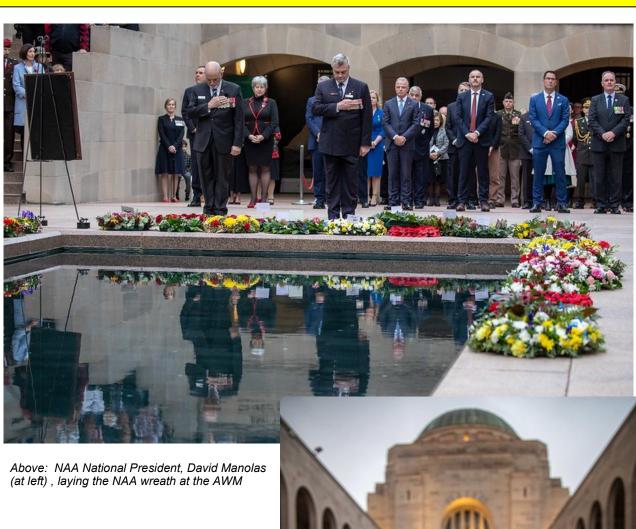
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National Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia

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AWM Last Post Ceremony—ANZAC Day 2022

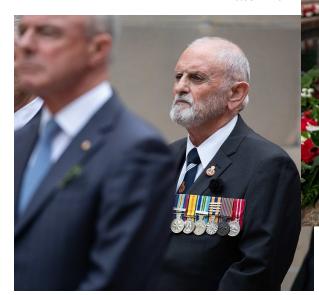


Right: NAA 's wreath (bottom right hand corner) as laid in the AWM Ceremonial Courtyard

Below: David Manolas at the Last Post Ceremo-

ny, Dr Brendon Nelson at left

Photos: Flickr



Photos on the front page are from the Defence website Media Section

Sea Power 2022 Nations share common vision on Indo-Pacific security

12 May 2022

Maritime leaders from nine nations joined Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, at the Indo-Pacific Sea Power 2022 conference in outlining common opportunities to jointly enhance maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

Representatives from Canada, France, India, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom spoke about their shared security challenges and how the navies of those countries have engaged in the Indo-Pacific

Vice Admiral Noonan opened the session and outlined the importance of the Indo-Pacific to security and global prosperity.

"The region comprises at least 38 countries, and shares 44 percent of the world's surface and about 65 percent of the world's population. It counts for 62 percent of global GDP and 46 percent of the world's merchandise trade," Vice Admiral Noonan said.

"In this idiosyncratic maritime region, seven out of the top 10 largest navies in the world are Indo-Pacific.

"The busiest international sea lanes are in our region as are nine of the world's 10 busiest sea ports.

"When it comes to maritime commons, a commonality of purpose is what will enable prosperity and security for all."

Discussions included the strategic realignment in the Indo-Pacific and geopolitical environment, along with challenges ranging from illegal fishing and immigration, threats posed by climate change, criminal activity, grey-zone tactics and an incremental disregard of the rules-based order.

The commonality of purpose shared by each nation

and the importance of working together in the maritime domain to provide a peaceful, prosperous, secure and stable Indo-Pacific were part of the discussions.

Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Admiral Ryo Sakai,

Military personnel from Singapore, Canada, Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Japan, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America at Session 2 of the Sea Power conference in Sydney.

Photo: LS Daniel Goodman

said collective cooperation was key.

"In order to maintain a rules-based order in the vast ocean, and to ensure peace and security in the region, cooperation among allies and likeminded countries is indispensable," Admiral Sakai said.

"The entire international community must work together to discourage unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and prevent conflict from occurring."

Singapore's Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Aaron Beng, agreed cooperation was important.

"It is sensible and reasonable that we significantly enhance and reinvigorate regional cooperation," Rear Admiral Aaron Beng said.

"The key reason for this is the range and number of threats will undoubtedly continue to grow beyond the capability of any navy or maritime force to go it alone."

Commander of United States Pacific Fleet, Admiral Samuel Paparo, picked up on a comment in the speech of Deputy Chief of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, Commodore Philip Polewarra, that reflected on a common humanity.

"Beyond our capabilities, it is our humanity and our partnerships that are an essential asymmetric advantage," Admiral Paparo said.

At the end of the session, Vice Admiral Noonan reflected on the points made by the speakers.

"What we came to talk about was commonality of purpose. What we see here is a commonality of vision and commitment," Vice Admiral Noonan said

By Natalie Staples



Sea Power 2022 Maritime technology inspires future workforce



Petty Officer Electronics Technician Submarines Michael Budden works at the Defence Force Recruiting stand during the Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference as part of Indo Pacific 2022 held in Sydney.

Photo: Defence

12May 2022

The future of maritime and naval technology was on display at the Indo Pacific Conference 2022 in Sydney this week. The specialist recruiting team from Defence Force Recruiting (DFR) was on hand to recruit our future sailors and officers.

The large, multi-national conference attracted 657 participating exhibitor companies from 22 nations to the International Conference Centre in Darling Harbour, to showcase their newest technology and innovation, including long-range strike weapons, robotics, autonomous capability, and more.

Specialist recruiter for submariners, Petty Officer Michael Budden said it was exciting to be surrounded by cutting edge technology and with the opportunity to connect with industry colleagues.

"It's important that DFR has a presence at Indo Pacific 22 so we can connect with and be around our Defence industry partners, and people who are interested in the future of Navy technology," Petty Officer Budden said.

"It's really thrilling to see the sort of equipment we could be working on in our current and future submarines, ships, aircraft and autonomous systems.

"People who want to join the Navy can actually see the technology they might be working on firsthand from the enterprises and industry that are creating this technology," he said.

As the Navy evolves and the future fleet emerges, including nuclear-powered submarines, Hunter-class frigates and Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels, the Navy needs to grow its workforce with the

right talent and skills to operate advanced capabilities.

Head Navy People Training and Resources, Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Chris Smith said people were the key to carrying innovation forward and adapting to emerging opportunities and threats.

"There are plans to increase our uniformed force to approximately 16,000 people by 2024, and to 20,000 by 2040. The Navy's part-time workforce will also increase," Rear Admiral Smith said.

"It's an exciting, innovative time to be part of Navy, and we must recruit people into a thinking, collaborative Navy.

"The continuous introduction of leading-edge technology into our Navy will shape our future capability, and our people are our best asset in taking these concepts and ideas forward."

The future workforce presents a range of exciting career pathways, including new roles like nuclear engineers, cyber operators, information warfare officers, remote pilots and autonomous systems operators. Navy people will also be able to move through a range of exciting training and posting opportunities throughout their careers, both at sea and ashore.

For more information on careers in the Navy, visit https://navy.defencejobs.gov.au/.

Navy hosts largest international exercise in its history

11 May 2022

This year's Exercise Kakadu is expected to be the largest international maritime engagement activity hosted by the Royal Australian Navy in its history.

Exercise Kakadu has grown significantly since it began in 1993 with the involvement of four navies, 15 ships and submarines, and 2000 personnel.

The depth and history of the exercise was explored during the Sea Power 2022 conference in Sydney this week.

Opening the Kakadu Conference, which was part of the King-Hall Naval History program, session host Director General Digital Capability, Commodore Andrew Willis, stressed the importance of Defence continuing to invest in international relationships.

"Exercise Kakadu was being conceptualised in the early Nineties, when geopolitics and natural disasters presented complex challenges, as they continue to do today," Commodore Willis said.

"Kakadu was conceptualised in the spirit of constructive diplomacy, with a genuine need for developing naval forces capable of cooperating and responding to our respective national needs."

When it began, Exercise Kakadu highlighted a change in the Navy's focus as it was the first time an exercise sought to develop regional interoperability and cooperation, instead of a posture, in defence of Australia.

Through cooperation and partnerships, Exercise Kakadu supports Australia's mutual security and alliance obligations and interests.

Keynote speakers from the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy echoed this sentiment and reflected on their respective country's involvement across many years of Exercise Kakadu.

Deputy Director, Policy and Strategy Division at the Naval Operations Department, Royal Thai Navy Captain Chalermwut Boonchan, said how valuable the exercise was for his nation.

Ships from various nations sail in formation during Exercise Kakadu 2018. This year's iteration is expected to be the largest international maritime engagement activity hosted by the Navy in its history.

Photo: POJames Whittle

"Kakadu has paved the way for us, as a Navy, for our growth, capability and our partnerships," Captain Boonchan said.

"It enables us to operate at a high level of readiness.

"The training and knowledge gained from Kakadu provides lessons we can incorporate into our exercises, such as Cobra Gold."

Captain Ivan Mario, from the Royal Malaysian Navy, said multinational exercises enabled nations to train with a unified command.

"Our participation in Kakadu provides a unity of purpose and provides a strong message of deterrence to non-traditional threats," Captain Mario said.

Exercise Kakadu is one of Australia's premier bilateral and multilateral engagement activities and provides greater and more effective military cooperation in the region.

In the past 30 years Australia has seen participation from the following nations; Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Japan, South Korea, France (New Caledonia), India, Pakistan, Brunei, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Hong Kong (United Kingdom), Canada, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Fiji, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Cook Islands, Sri Lanka, Chile, China and Vanuatu.

Exercise Kakadu was described as an exemplar of "commonality of purpose", which is the theme of the Sea Power 2022 conference.

By Lieutenant Nancy Cotton



Dr Brendan Nelson AO appointed to Australian War Memorial Council

Tuesday, April 5 2022

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

Dr Brendan Nelson AO has been appointed as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial

Dr Nelson fills the Council position vacated by outgoing member Mr Kerry Stokes AC, who is standing down after 15 years of exceptional and dedicated service, including as Chairman for more than six years.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said Dr Nelson's appointment would allow him to continue to serve the Australian War Memorial through its historic redevelopment.

"In the seven years Dr Nelson was Director of the Australian War Memorial he worked tirelessly to ensure it remained at the forefront of our nation's story of service and sacrifice," Minister Gee said.

"He built a legacy of innovation and inclusion in his time as Director, overseeing the centenary of the First World War and the major refurbishment of the galleries which record our involvement in that conflict.

"While serving as Australia's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO, he witnessed the daily Last Post ceremonies at the Menin Gate in Ypres, and the impact this moving act of remembrance had on the community.

"It is thanks to his guidance, that we now have a daily Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, which gives all Australians the opportunity to remember and honour the sacrifice of the more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in service.

"His long history of service to the Australian people as a medical practitioner, member of the Australian Parliament, diplomat and business leader will also bring a wealth of experience to the Council.

"Dr Nelson served as the Minister for Defence during ADF deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands, ensuring a special understanding of the stories that will be told through the Memorial's redevelopment.

"His business acumen, as president of Boeing Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, will also prove invaluable.

"Our War Memorial is sacred to Australians as a place of solemn reflection and pride in our nation's history of service. Generations of Australians have a special connection and bond to it through their own story of service and sacrifice or that of their family. I am very pleased Dr Nelson will again bring his passion and energy to it."

Minister Gee also thanked outgoing Chair of the Council Mr Kerry Stokes AC for his outstanding

dedication to the Australian War Memorial, the culmination of which is evident in the delivery of the \$500 million expansion of the Memorial.

"Mr Stokes has served on the Council of the Australian War Memorial for the last 15 years, and as Chair since 2015, playing a critical role in maintaining and developing the national-



ly significant institution," Minister Gee said.

"On behalf of all Australians, I thank Mr Stokes for his passion, leadership and vision, as demonstrated by his induction as a Fellow of the Australian War Memorial in November 2015.

"Since inception Mr Stokes has overseen the commencement of the building works for the expansion of the memorial's exhibition spaces. He has also been a major benefactor to the Memorial over many years and his passion and respect for the sacrifices made by our service men and women has been evident in the many hours he has devoted to his role as chairman."

During his tenure Mr Stokes has had many achievements, including sponsoring the 95th Gallipoli anniversary touring exhibition, This company of brave men: the Gallipoli VCs, and donating several significant medals, including nine Victoria Cross medal groups and two George Cross medal groups. He also donated to the Memorial an extremely valuable collection of First World War glass plate negatives from the Thuillier estate in July 2011.

Mr Stokes said "I have enjoyed every moment in working with the dedicated staff and council of the Memorial over the last 15 years and will continue to follow closely the progress of construction to expand the facility in Canberra over the next few years.

"The Memorial holds a special place in every Australian's heart and I am proud to have played a role in its development. I am sure Brendan will again make an important contribution in his new role", he added.

"I want to thank both Mr Stokes and Dr Nelson for their contribution to the Australian War Memorial and our nation more broadly. I wish them both all the best for the future," Minister Gee said.

The Council of the Australian War Memorial will decide who will replace Mr Stokes as Chairman. ENDS

Brendan Nelson was elected as new Australian War Memorial Board chairman, replacing Kerry Stokes on 22 April 2022

Free mental health care through DVA

29 April 2022

The past two years have been challenging for all Australians, including our Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, veterans and their families; and now is the time to make mental health a priority.

All current and former full-time members of the ADF can get free mental health treatment. So can reservists who have completed disaster relief service, border protection service or were involved in a serious training accident. This is called non-liability mental health care. It means there is no need to prove your condition is related to military service and no need to submit a claim for compensation. It covers treatment for any mental health condition.

A Veteran White Card is used to pay for treatment under non-liability mental health care arrangements. Many veterans have White Cards that already cover non-liability mental health treatment. To check if your White Card covers mental health

treatment, or to apply for a non-liability mental health White Card if you don't already have one, you can use DVA's MyService app, email nlhc@dva.gov.au, or call DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

If you have mental health concerns, talk to your General Practitioner in the first instance. Your GP may refer you to a mental health practitioner, such as a psychologist or psychiatrist. Before your appointment, make sure the practitioner will accept the DVA Veteran White Card for payment.

Further information is available on the <u>Free mental</u> health care for veterans page of the DVA website.

All current and former ADF personnel and their families also have access to free and confidential counselling and support through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling. This life-saving support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1800 011 046.

New School set up to counter modern threats

28 April 2022

Navy's intelligence and information warfare training capability has adapted to face the new challenges with the creation of the Maritime Intelligence and Information Warfare School (MIIWS) at HMAS *Watson*.

The school brings together the training of information warfare officers, intelligence officers, imagery specialists, and cryptologic and electronic warfare sailors.

Lieutenant Commander Rich Morris is the inaugural officer in charge of the MIIWS and a driving force behind its creation.

"Navy had established operational and strategic agencies for intelligence and information warfare, but there was no dedicated organisation to deliver centralised training on the waterfront," Lieutenant Commander Morris said.

"The opening salvoes of the next conflict will be in the information domain and, therefore, our trainees are the vanguard, but the tools of our trade and the vectors of attack are constantly evolving.

"We must be agile to ensure that our trainees are ready for the worst-case scenario."

Lieutenant Commander Morris went on to say that a culture of innovation in information warfare and intelligence starts with the MIIWS and will be critical to the success of the Navy and the nation.

The school was grown from Training Authority – Maritime Warfare's School of Maritime Warfare, based at HMAS *Watson*, recognising the significant

importance intelligence and information warfare play in the maritime and joint warfare spaces.

Through its establishment, the school has taken important initial steps at consolidating Navy's intelligence and information warfare training workforce.

Leading Seaman Jacob Wiremu, an instructor of the basic electronic intelligence course, said he could see the benefit of centralising specialised training courses from across the country to one location.

"It will allow the free flow of information and integration of specialisations within the Navy and will improve information warfare in terms of understanding the roles and responsibilities of fellow category members," Leading Seaman Wiremu said.

"The reliability of such a new and modern training precinct is what was needed for a long time here at HMAS *Watson*.

"I anticipate it will bring a sense of awe and increased professionalism to staff and students alike."

The MIIWS will move into new secure facilities next year as part of HMAS *Watson*'s redevelopment.

Further consolidation of training will occur through 2023 and 2024, growing the powerful linkages with the national intelligence community, supporting the necessary collaborative efforts in these environments.

HMAS Watson's gift to Taronga Zoo

Members from HMAS Watson turned trash into treasure recently by donating unused battle ropes, tyres and logs to animals at Taronga Zoo.

The donation was part of the base's initiative to minimise waste and become leaders in waste reduction and sustainability.

The delighted zookeepers said the equipment played an important part in providing enrichment activities, which were essential for the health and wellbeing of animals in captivity.

Most enrichment items are food-focused, but others can be used for play, housing or sensory stimulation.

Marine keeper Steph Kula explained how her favourite resident, Charlie the 300kg Australian sea lion bull, used items like the new tyre donated by Watson.

"We will place numerous frozen fish inside a tyre. This is used for food-based and cognitive enrichment and allows him to display various foraging

behaviours," Ms Kula

said.

"He is a powerful lad so the fact that the tyres are very strong and durable allows Charlie to manipulate and thrash the items without destroying them."

Leading Seaman Edson Tango-Sella, Petty Officer Jessica Fisher, Leading Seaman Lara Pilton and Taronga zoo keepers with the equipment donated by HMAS Watson

Photo: Steph Kula

Petty Officer Jessica Fisher said she was thrilled to donate to the cause and hoped it wouldn't be the last time Watson contributed to the zoo.

"I am so grateful that we could be a part of turning our trash into their treasure and we will continue to help them," she said.

"The tyres went to the marine animals and lions, the ropes to the monkeys, and the logs were being used to set up numerous activities in all enclo-

"It was a great opportunity to make some new relationships and minimise waste at Watson at the same time. I hope we can continue to recycle some of our waste this way."

Attention at Watson is now turning to a new initiative to compost food waste for surrounding green spaces.

By Leut Kirsti Welling-Birtenshaw



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



Defence All-hours Support Line 1800 628 036



ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

22 April 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

ADSO POLICY OBJECTIVES 2022-2025

The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) welcomes the opportunity to announce its core Policy Objectives (attached) for the period 2022 to 2025. They are intended as a timely reminder to all sides of politics seeking election to the 47th Parliament of Australia that a significant portion of the veterans' community, speaking largely with a single voice, continues to seek redress of a series of key issues that are of major concern, many of which have remained outstanding for far too long.

Some have been the subject of unfulfilled promises, not the least of which includes the fair indexation of the various military superannuation schemes and the inadequacies of veterans' disability compensation payments.

In commenting on the Objectives and encouraging all sides of politics to find legislative ways to redress each issue in turn, ADSO's National Spokesman, Mike von Berg MC OAM, wished to acknowledge that the Government, with the Labor Opposition's support, had taken action on a long-held key Objective, namely, to legislate an Australian Military (Veterans) Covenant that gives formal recognition to the Unique Nature of Military Service. The wording of the Covenant still needs some work to include a non-disadvantage clause so that veterans and their families will not suffer detriment relative to any other section of the Australian community.

Together with all sections of the veterans' community, ADSO is nonetheless disappointed that seemingly all sides of politics have thus far remained completely silent on any veterans-related policies that they plan to address going forward. Policy released by both the Government and the Opposition should at minimum give recognition to the immensity of the advocacy and welfare work, and the vital role the wider ex-service community plays in support of veterans and their families. That community is almost without exception volunteer-based and lacks completely any financial help beyond the meagre amounts available to each Association separately under the DVA Grant-in Aid scheme.

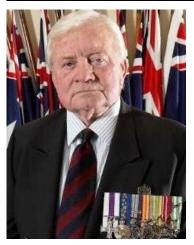
ADSO calls on both sides of politics to acknowledge the contribution of the ex-service entities in the community, including ADSO, by funding their work more appropriately in performing their welfare functions on behalf of Government and DVA, and the broad Australian veterans' community.

ASDO wishes to acknowledge the excellent work of the on-going work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. An interim report due later in the year will likely be revealing as to the extent of the problems at hand.

Contacts				
ADSO Campaign Co Directors Ted Chitham MC, OAM Mobile: (0418) 733 887 Alf Jaugietis Mobile: (0438) 282 284	http://adso.org.au/	ADSO National Spokesman Mike von Berg MC, OAM Mobile: (0411) 870 055		

Note: Further information on ADSO's policies from 2022 to 2025 are located in the April National Bosun's Call in the NAA website

LNP & ALP, What's Your Policies vis-a-vis ADSO's Veteran Policies?



ADSO's National Spokesperson Mike von Berg has asked this question of the LNP and ALP leadership and their relevant Defence and DVA appointees today. He seeks a response by the 13th May 2022 to inform the Defence and Veteran Family prior to the 21st May 2022 Election Day.

"We hope you have considered the 'Veterans Policy Objectives' which ADSO laid out in its letter and attachment of the 4th of May 2022. These objectives are of major concern to our Defence and Veteran Family ("The Family")."

"With the Federal Election fast approaching it is incumbent on the ADSO leadership to advise our members of your Party's position visà-vis our "veterans policy objectives."

ADSO expects the incoming Government and the Parliament to support the recommendations of The Royal Commission into Defence

and Veterans Suicide when received, and to review and strengthen the 'Veterans' Charter'.

"Even though all ADSO's member associations are apolitical, we need to advise them, their members and "The Family", for their consideration at the ballot box, which of our objectives you, in principle, will support in the next Parliament."



VETERANS' POLICY COMPARISON & STATUS: ELECTION 2022 – AS AT 14TH MAY 2022

		ADSO OBJECTIVES	LNP	ALP		
1	Military Superannuation	Introduce 'Fair Indexation for ALL Military Superannuation Payments				
		Allow access to employer benefits to MSBS recipients				
		Rectify the continued use of 50+ year old life tables when calculating commutation and fortnightly payments to DFRDB superannuants				
2	Military Compensation	Restore disabled veterans' compensation payments for its loss of value				
		Provide our most disabled veterans with an income level enabling them to live with dignity and provide for their families.				
3	Veteran White Card	Extend the Veteran White Card to all Reservists (not only to those with full-time service).				
4	Ex Service Organisations	Support ESOs financially to recognise the immensity of the advocacy and welfare work, and the vital role the wider exservice community plays in supporting veterans and their families.				
	About 70% or more of the ADSO objective adopted in announced veteran policy or written commitment given to implement or review.					
	About 50 - 70% of the ADSO objective adopted in announced veteran policy or written commitment given to implement or review.					
	Less than 50% of the ADSO objective adopted or NO Veteran Policy announced - AS OF TODAY'S UPDATE					

[&]quot;Your advice will be consolidated and publicised on and social media networks from the 14th May 2022 using the colour coded Status Comparison Table above. It will be updated daily."

20220508-ADSO-POLICIES-LNP-and-ALP-Comparison-Table-2Download

ADSO encourages all Australians to support the Defence and Veteran Family by direct representation of our veteran objectives to their electorate candidates for the House of Representatives and their State Senate candidates: particularly to the Prime Minister <u>Scott Morrison</u>, Defence Minister <u>Peter Dutton</u>, DVA Minister <u>Andrew Gee</u>, Opposition Leader <u>Anthony Albanese</u>, Shadow Defence Minister <u>Brendan O'Connor</u>, Shadow DVA Minister <u>Shayne Neumann</u>

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)

International callers:

+61 2 6289 1133

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section epartment 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