



# National Bosun's Call



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Once Navy, Always Navy

May 2025

## ANZAC Day—2025



(l-r) First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff of the United Kingdom, Admiral Sir Ben Key, the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN and Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Air Vice-Marshal Darryn Webb lay wreaths at the 110th Dawn Service held at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Türkiye.

Photo: LSIS Susan Mossop

The Anzac spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all Australians as we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed so much to shaping the identity of our nation. Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel across Australia and serving around the world commemorated Anzac Day through dawn services and commemorative services. In Australia, ADF personnel supported the Australian War Memo-

rial services as well as services in each capital city and dozens of smaller cities and towns. Overseas, ADF personnel supported services at Gallipoli in Türkiye, Villers-Bretonneux in France, as well as services in the Middle East and across the Indo-Pacific. Australians are encouraged to participate by sharing photos, stories and videos via social media channels using the following hashtags: #AnzacDay WeForget #AnzacDay2025 #WeWillRememberThem`



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



## ANZAC Day—2025



*Above: Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, receives a wreath from RAN sailor Able Seaman Zoe Dewar during the Lone Pine Commemorative Service at the Lone Pine Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula*



*Left: Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond (front left), AO, RAN, and Royal Navy officer Admiral Sir Ben Key (front right), First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff of the United Kingdom, with Australian Defence Force personnel from Australia's Federation Guard at the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli,*

*Photos: LSIS  
Susan Mossop*

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## RAN Sydney Band - Amiens Cathedral France

*Photos: CPL Nicole Dorrett*



Members of the RAN Band Sydney pay tribute to the ANZACs by performing a special concert at Amiens Cathedral in France for members of the public after Anzac Day was marked in Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt in 2025.



*Left: Director of Music, CMDR Cassandra Mohapp introduces AB Francis to the congregation at Amiens Cathedral during the Anzac Day 2025 concert in France, as the band prepares to play an original composition by AB Piccin titled "Never Forget Australia".*

*Photos: Defence*



## ANZAC Day—2025



*Above: Members of Australia's Federation Guard, the Royal Australian Navy Band, French Armed Forces, veterans and members of the public march down the streets of Bullecourt for Anzac Day 2025 in France.*

*Photo: CPL Nicole Dorrett*

*Below: Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston, AC, RAN, during the Anzac Day 2025 dawn service in Thailand.*

*Photo: KaiKorakosh*





## ANZAC Day—2025



*Above: The catafalque party present arms during the ANZAC Day 2025 dawn service held at the Darwin Cenotaph War Memorial in Northern Territory.*

*Below: United States Marine Rotational Force – Darwin 25.3 march through Darwin city*

*Photos: Corporal Madhur Chitnis*





## ANZAC Day—2025

*Right: HMAS Canberra and HMAS Shropshire veterans march down Elizabeth Street in Sydney*



*Below: RAN personnel from HMAS Moreton march through Brisbane*



*Below WO Glen Wright (left) and LS Ronald Baraguid from HMAS Cairns join with an Australian Army Reserve soldier from Sarpeye (Charlie) Company, 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment, dressed in traditional Thursday Island ceremonial dress at Green Hill Fort after the dawn service.*



*Above: RSL WA State President Mr Duncan Anderson with family and Naval Association of Australia - WA Section President Mr Ian Holthouse march through Perth city*

*Photos: Defence*



## ANZAC Day—2025

*Right: HMAS Sydney commemorates Anzac Day at sea during her second regional presence deployment for 2025*

*Photo: LSIS David Cox*



*Below: Part of Australia's Federation Guard forms a catafalque party during the 2025 Anzac Day memorial held at Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby.*

*Photo: CPL Michael Rogers*





## ANZAC Day Memorial March and Service Canberra 2025



Above: NAA ACT Section contingent marching past and at right; forming up to commence the march past

Photo Debbie McGown

Photos of the ACT Section did not make the AWM Flickr Album this year. The usual wreath laying part of the ceremony was omitted from this year's service.



Above: WRANS Naval Women (ACT) at the 2025 Canberra ANZAC Day National Commemorative Service march.

Photo: Defence

Left: HMAS Sydney' contingent made the Flickr Album .

Photo: Flickr



## New AWM Main Entrance Opened

*Photos and text: AWM*



Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia was welcomed and introduced by Director of the Australian War Memorial, Matt Anderson PSM to The Main Entrance Opening Reception.

This is a milestone in the continuing journey of the Memorial and is our first opportunity to showcase the main entrance,

The southern entrance is part of the Development program at the Australian War Memorial, sitting beneath the heritage entrance of the 83-year-old building. In the midst of the new southern entrance sits the Ocu-



lus, through which visitors will see the Australian War Memorial Hall of Memory dome beyond.

The shape of the Oculus is an inversion of that dome, and the space below will orientate visitors, providing views up to the dome and main building. Cast into the floor beneath the Oculus are the 15 values from the stained glass windows in the Hall of Memory.

Construction is progressing across the site and we remain on-track for completion by 30 June 2028



## DVA Rates of Payment effective 17 April 2025

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,144.40	\$1,149.00	\$4.60
Couples (each)	\$862.60	\$866.10	\$3.50
Single person - transitional	\$941.10	\$944.80	\$3.70
Couples (each) - transitional	\$759.30	\$762.30	\$3.00
<b>WAR WIDOWS (total amount)</b>			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,165.30	\$1,170.00	\$4.70
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$346.20	\$347.60	\$1.40
<b>DISABILITY Compensation Payment</b>			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,805.30	\$1,812.50	\$7.20
Intermediate rate	\$1,196.80	\$1,201.60	\$4.80
EDA	\$974.20	\$978.10	\$3.90
100 per cent (inc ES)	\$626.70	\$629.20	\$2.50
10 per cent (inc ES)	\$69.60	\$69.85	\$0.25
<b>VETERAN PAYMENT</b>			
Single person	\$1,242.20	\$1,247.30	\$5.10
Couples (each)	\$968.70	\$972.80	\$4.10
<b>MRCA</b>			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,165.30	\$1,170.00	\$4.70
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,805.30	\$1,812.50	\$7.20

*These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable. These rates came into effect on 20 March 2025 and the first full payment at these rates is the payday of 17 April.*



## First Enlisted Royal Australian Navy Sailors Graduate U.S. Navy Nuke School

The first enlisted Australian sailors that could eventually crew American and Australian nuclear attack submarines graduated from the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power Training Unit, the service announced.

Eight Royal Australian Navy sailors graduated from the six-month course on April 18 and are now qualified to handle the reactors and other associated systems on the nuclear attack boats that Canberra is set to receive under the 2021 Australia, United Kingdom and United States trilateral security agreement. The training, which began in the fall of 2024, included courses on mathematics, nuclear physics, reactor principles, and nuclear reactor technology.

"Having naval nuclear power-qualified officers, and now sailors, is critical in meeting our goal of operating conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines," RAN Commodore Daniel Sutherland, commander RAN Submarine Force.

AUKUS, signed in 2021, formalized in 2023 and described by the Navy release as a "strategic initiative to re-establish deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region," is set to provide the Royal Australian Navy with three Virginia-class boats, two Bloc IVs and one future Bloc VII, in the 2030s as a stop-gap measure. Five SSN-AUKUS, a new class of five nuclear attack submarines, are set to enter Australian service starting in the 2040s. Canberra will have the option of obtaining an additional two Virginias if this planned class falls behind schedule.

While five officers also completed their naval nuclear power training, they were preceded by two batches of three graduates each from 2023. After additional training in Connecticut, these officers were slated to embark on Hawaii-based Virginia-class nuclear attack boats to gain further operational experience.

"Six officers previously completed prototype training, each performing exceptionally well. I fully expect these recent graduates, especially our first enlisted

personnel, will excel in the fleet," said Capt. Robert Rose, Commander, NPTU Charleston, in a press release on the milestone event.

Nuclear power training was described as "the missing piece of the puzzle" by Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, a career submariner and the chief of the RAN, in his remarks to reporters last year at HMAS Stirling. Canberra's existing fleet of Collins-class attack boats utilizes the same combat systems and weapons as the Virginias, but the sailors on the conventionally-powered boats have no experience with their reactors.

Training cooperation between U.S. and Australian submariners in the Indo-Pacific has ramped up in recent years. USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39), one of two tenders capable of supporting submarines in the Navy's fleet, received 37 Australian sailors last Spring in Guam to gain maintenance and experience knowledge from their American counterparts. This was ahead of the arrival of USS *Hawaii* (SSN -776) at HMAS Stirling, the Royal Australian Navy's primary submarine base, and other activities designed to acclimate Australian sailors to their future platforms.

"These Royal Australian Navy sailors will now transition to our submarines to continue their training and qualifications in operating naval nuclear propulsion plants," stated Master Chief Ed Jackson, Engineering Department Master Chief for Naval Reactors in a press release.

*By Arron Matthew Lariosia*

*22 April 2025*

*US Naval Institute News*

*Right:*

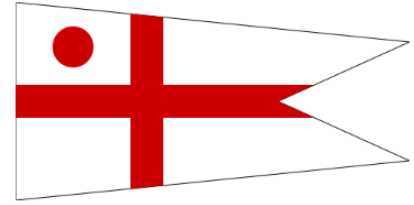
*Royal Australian Navy sailors graduate the United States Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU) in the hangar bay of USS Yorktown (CV-10), April 18, 2025.*

*US Navy Photo*





## Deputy Fleet Commander Handover



Outgoing Deputy Fleet Commander (DFC), CDRE Ray Leggatt, AM, CSC, RAN handed over the role to incoming DFC, CDRE Anita Williams, in a small ceremony in Fleet Headquarters on the morning of 10 Apr 25

*Above: Commodore Ray Leggatt, AM, CSC, RAN (right) hands the weight to Commodore Anita Williams, RAN*

*Photo Defence*

## Taylor Division graduate from the Recruit School



*Left: Mr Sean Derrick NAA and Captain Marilyn Griffiths, RAN, present Recruit Jessica Wyeth with the Leadership Award during General Entry 434 Taylor Division's graduation ceremony at Royal Australian Navy Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus in Victoria.*

*Photo POIS  
Christopher Szumlanski*





## Australian Government

### Defence

# Transition from the ADF

## Joint Transition Authority

At some point in your military career, and preferably as early as possible, you will need to start thinking about transitioning to civilian life.

Transition is a normal part of every ADF member's career and Defence's ADF transition programs are here to help you and your family plan for civilian life.

Participating in the transition process is mandatory for all ADF members, regardless of the reason for leaving.

### Transition Support Officers

Transition Support Officers are your main point of contact for the duration of your transition.

They provide one-on-one support and work with you and your family to develop an individualised transition plan to support you through the process, and for up to 24 months afterwards.

### ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars

You and your family can attend a seminar at any time in your career. It is recommended that you attend one every four years. It is mandatory for members to attend a seminar within 12 months of their transition date.

### Defence Force Transition Program

The Defence Force Transition Program (DFTP) provides access to specialist advice, paid leave and training to support the transition to civilian life.

A Transition Support Officer will provide access to these programs..

### Defence Force Transition Programs

- **Job Search Preparation Workshop**

An online workshop covering all aspects of managing your career, building a resume to capture your military skills, applying for jobs and selling your skills and experience. It is accessible to all permanent ADF members at any point during their career as well as family members.

- **Career Transition Coaching (CTC)**

Specialist one-on-one coaching to help you identify your motivators, skills, and career options, develop an employment plan and interview skills, build a competitive resume, learn effective job-hunting skills, and adjust to the civilian environment.

- **Career Transition Training (CTT)**

Access to vocational education and training to support your employment or meaningful engagement goals after you transition. Limited support may also be provided to help you with travel to attend training.

- **Transition for Meaningful Engagement (T4ME)**

Long-term vocational, career and meaningful engagement support to medically transitioning members with complex circumstances.



[www.defence.gov.au/transition](http://www.defence.gov.au/transition)



[transition.support@defence.gov.au](mailto:transition.support@defence.gov.au)



1800 624 608





**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

# Transition from the ADF

## Joint Transition Authority

- **Personalised Career & Employment Program (PCEP)**

Intensive job search support for members at risk of not securing employment prior to or soon after transition, particularly where a member's financial security and ability to meet their basic needs may be compromised as a result of unemployment.

- **Financial Advice**

A contribution towards professional financial advice to assist in planning for your financial security after transition.

- **Transition Absence**

Leave for transition-related activities, including house hunting, job interviews, appointments and on-the-job experience.

- **Post-transition follow-up**

Defence will maintain contact with you for 24 months post-transition which enables you to reach back for further support if your circumstances change.

- **Partner Employment Assistance Program**

Funding for initiatives to assist ADF partners with employment when they are relocated on posting, or if their member is medically transitioning.

### What else do you need to know?

- **Skills recognition — Australian Defence College**

The ADF Civil Recognition and Transition Project facilitates national recognition of competencies and qualifications obtained as a result of a member's professional military education and training.

- **Leaving with documentation**

Every member is supported to leave with appropriate documentation related to their Defence service, including medical, dental, service and training records, leave and pay summaries and ADF will (if applicable).

- **Connection with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)**

Connecting with DVA is a critical part of your transition. Register with DVA via MyService and connect with a veteran support officer.

- **Comprehensive health assessment**

Every transitioning member must undergo a comprehensive health assessment prior to transition.

This provides an accurate assessment and record of health, including psychological status, Medical Employment Classification, and any ongoing health care. You will be provided with a clinical summary, which can be given to your chosen civilian general practitioner.



[www.defence.gov.au/transition](http://www.defence.gov.au/transition)



[transition.support@defence.gov.au](mailto:transition.support@defence.gov.au)



1800 624 608



# Media Release: Veterans Seek Pre-Election Answers to 22 Questions

8 Apr 2025

## ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS



Lead veteran's organisation the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) has written to the Government and Opposition, and to all political parties and key independent MP's seeking a 'yes or no' answer on what action they will take in Government on 22 issues of vital concern to veterans and their families.

Amidst a national cost of living crisis, the first group of question asks for three independent judicial reviews, one into a fairer and adequate military superannuation system, a second into an improved veterans and families compensation and rehabilitation system and finally, an inquiry into an extension of health and pension entitlements to veterans who so served on three long standing forms of dangerous operational service, and the families of those who died or were seriously injured, by recognising these deployments as 'qualifying service'.

A second line of questions seeks reform of the military justice system, seek a 'put up or wind up' date of the \$300m Office of the Special Prosecutor which is looking without much success into unsubstantiated Afghanistan war crime allegations, and a commitment to withdraw our nation from the International Criminal Court and the 2002 Rome Statute so that our ANZACs are governed by Australian law without qualification!

In a third raft of questions, veterans seek a review of the broken Honors and Awards system which is leaving some battlefield heroes unrecognised while removing medals for distinguished service from courageous leaders earned in battle, as a form of group punishment without due process. The final questions deal with improved and independent veterans governance and better stakeholder engagement.

Much has been achieved in recent years to reduce the backlog of veteran's claims, to support the Department of Veterans Affairs, on law reform and to deal with suicide prevention and physical and mental health of veterans and their families. But glaring challenges remain. ADSO awaits a response from each of the political parties.



Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith  
ADSO Media Spokesperson  
spokesperson@adso.org.au  
0408 854 707

7th April 2025

### Ex-Service Organisations Round Table Meeting—Extract from DVA Update The Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) met on Tuesday, 25 March 2025.

#### DVA Critical Initiatives

**Update on the consultation and co-design process for the establishment of a new agency to focus on veteran wellbeing and an ESO Peak Body**

On 2 December 2024, the Government released its response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission, agreeing to most of the recommendations. **As part of the response, the Government provided \$4.5 million to DVA to undertake consultation on transition and wellbeing supports, including the co design of a new agency focused on wellbeing within the Department, and separately, to continue to consult on the development of a national peak body** (Recommendations 80, 87 and 89). The Department has engaged some external expertise to support it in its consultation and co-design approach. A range of inputs such as submissions and co-design forums will inform proposals to be presented to government for consideration.



## DVA Contacts

### DVA Contact numbers

- Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: [1300 550 017](tel:1300550017)
- Provider enquiries: [1800 550 457](tel:1800550457)
- Transport bookings: [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455)
- [Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre](#) (VAPAC): [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580)

### Hearing or speech impairment assistance

- If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service](#) (NRS):
- Talk To You (TTY) users phone [1800 555 677](tel:1800555677) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Speak and Listen users phone [1800 555 727](tel:1800555727) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Internet relay users connect to the [NRS](#) then

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](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)

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017  
(Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1:** Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- **Step 2:** Supply the documents you need to;
- **Step 3:** Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

### Claims Processing

#### A snapshot of March 2025:

- DVA received **9,355** claims in March bringing the total for the financial year to date (FYTD) to 74,767 claims – **19.9** per cent higher than the same period last year.
- DVA made **9,781** determinations and has finalised 75,038 claims in the FYTD, **1.6** per cent more than the equivalent period last year.
- **73,213** claims were with an officer for processing and **8,706** claims were yet to be allocated for processing.

The average time taken to process a MRCA IL claim was **301 days** in the 2024-25 FYTD (1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025), compared to 386 days in the corresponding 2023-24 FYTD. The average TTTP for MRCA IL claims received within the last 12 months, was 102 days.

**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**