



“Your Local Club”

“Your RSL”

“Ringwood RSL”

May/June 2024 Newsletter



Legislation to simplify and harmonise Australia’s veterans’ compensation system

Draft legislation that aims to simplify and harmonise Australia’s veterans’ compensation system has been released by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs.

The Minister states that the draft legislation is the next step in responding to recommendation 1 of the Royal Commission’s Interim Report. If enacted, the Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill would implement the Government’s proposal for a single Act model from 1 July 2026.

Under this model, all new claims after the commencement date would be assessed under an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA), with compensation payments being received under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) at the commencement date being grand-parented.

The new system claims to have a number of improvements, many of which have been added as a result of the consultation conducted on the Veterans’ Legislation Reform Consultation Pathway last year. They include:

- introducing a new Additional Disablement Amount to the MRCA, providing similar benefits as the Extreme Disablement Adjustment under the VEA for those post-retirement age (taking into account modern superannuation entitlements).
- making the higher travel allowance amount available to all veterans, regardless of kilometres travelled, for private vehicle travel for treatment.
- providing a pathway for veterans only covered by the DRCA to qualify for the Special Rate Disability Pension and a Gold Card under MRCA if they have a new claim accepted or a material deterioration of an accepted condition accepted post-commencement.
- increasing the funeral allowance from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for previous automatic grant categories under the VEA, and ensuring that a reimbursement for funeral expenses of up to \$14,062 is available in respect of all service-related deaths.
- the ability to have DRCA claims reviewed by the Veterans’ Review Board.
- merging the functions of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission into the Repatriation Commission, and
- introducing ‘presumptive liability’, allowing the Repatriation Commission to specify injuries and diseases that can be determined as “automatic unless proven otherwise” where they are known to have a common connection with military service.

Moving to a single ongoing Act should make it easier for veterans and families to understand their entitlements and receive the support they need, when they need it. It should also contribute to streamlining and speeding up claims processing within DVA. However, we must be vigilant since previous attempts to “harmonise & simplify” legislation to support veterans have resulted in more complex processes and barriers to access support.

The Veteran Games Australia 2024



The Games will be conducted during the period 17th & 18th August on the Gold Coast.

The Veteran Games is a proactive health initiative, focusing on physical and mental health outcomes for all involved, while working to shape a positive and aspirational contemporary Veteran narrative. These outcomes have been specifically designed to address key findings from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Interim Report.

The Ringwood RSL Sub Branch is a sponsor of the Veteran Games is also sponsoring a team and this year with the involvement of other sub branches will be sending a second team to the games. The teams (Average Joes) are well into the training and preparation and are finalising their final make up.

Competitions this include a Team Obstacle Course challenge, Team Tug-of-War, and a number of other Military styled activities designed to test the teamwork and problem-solving skill-sets of competitors.

Members of the teams have expressed their thanks for the expressions of support they received from the Sub Branch members at the meet and greet on the 17th May.

2023 Participant's feedback:

"It's been so awesome to have support from our friends, family, and community, getting around Average Joe's Ringwood RSL Team in support of the Veterans Games. We created a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AverageJoesRingwoodRSLTeam> to track our team training and community connection leading up to the Veteran Games and beyond".

Jason.

"We'll come along to cheer you guy's on".

Jess – Facebook comment

"Really proud of how you guys have become family. The Rising Sun Charitable Trust will have your backs so keep up the great work lads".

The Rising Sun Charitable Trust – Facebook comment

Sub Branch Matters

Our manager is enjoying a well-earned holiday in Europe with his wife and in his absence, Jack Chisholm is acting in his position. We wish Wayne and Nadine a very enjoyable time on holidays.

2024 ANZAC Commemorations



The community supported our ANZAC Day commemorations by turning out in large numbers and feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. The estimated attendance at the Dawn Service was in the order of 3000 to 3500 and we served in excess of 1,000 full breakfasts at the Sub Branch after the service. Two-up was again popular with the players making generous donations to the welfare fund. Once again, the Pipe Band was a hit with members as it played through the club. At one point prompting members in the ANZAC Lounge to join in by singing the songs being piped!



ANZAC 2024 Car Raffle

The raffle was drawn on ANZAC Day with the winner being Darren Night

Proceeds went to the Sub Branch welfare fund which assists local veterans and their families in need.

Notice of General Meeting

A Sub Branch general meeting for service and affiliate members will be held at the Sub Branch on 12th June @ 7 PM. Agenda items will be selection of candidates for the State Executive to be supported and for members to decide which remits proposed for the State Conference we should support.

General Meeting





2nd June 2024

DR
Big Band

Jazz on Sundays
Ringwood RSL
1:30-5:30pm

CAUGHT
IN THE
ACT! *in the jazz notes*



FOOTY FEAST
— PANEL SHOW —

DYNAMIC DEES

Jake Lever | Kozzy Pickett | Caleb Windsor
Hosted by Tom McDonald

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

RINGWOOD RSL
16 STATION ST, RINGWOOD

Bookings: dynamicdeesringwood.eventbrite.com.au



Monthly
D R A G
BINGO

\$20 TICKETS
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



2ND TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
DOORS 5:30 - SHOWS 7:00