

# Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited

## E-Newsletter October 2022



*Tulip Top Gardens, Sutton, NSW. Photographer: Ilya Genkin / Alamy Stock Photo.*

### Welcome to the October issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

In this issue you will find a copy of the speech given by TPI Federation President Ms Pat McCabe, OAM, on Wednesday 17 August 2022 at an event held at the Coffs Harbour Services Club for TPI NSW members living in the surrounding area. Around 40 people turned up to the meeting, at which lunch was provided. The meeting was addressed by TPI President Patrick Bright, OAM, TPI Federation President Pat McCabe, TPI NSW CEO John Szabo and TPI NSW director Phil Hurren.

The newsletter also contains information about changes to the President of TPI NSW and a change of location for the TPI NSW Annual

General Meeting. Please see page 2 for further information.

We hope this e-newsletter will not be just one-way communication and that you will share your ideas and experiences with other TPI NSW Association members. If you have information that you would like to share please email: [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:editor@tpinsw.org.au). We look forward to hearing from you.

**Victoria Dawson**

**Editor, TPI NSW Association**

**Email: [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:editor@tpinsw.org.au)**



## Change of TPI NSW President

Further to the declaration of elections, Mr Patrick Bright, OAM, has withdrawn his nomination as President and as a Director of the Association. Mr Les Vincent, Senior Vice President, will assume the role of Chairman until further notice.

## My Aged Care

MyAgedCare have provided [HERE](#) a contact list for each State and Territory and their offices within those States and Territories where a MyAgedCare Office is available.

## Change of Location for TPI NSW Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the TPI NSW Association will still be held on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 1.00 pm at the Barracks on Barrack, 5-7 Barrack Street, Sydney NSW 2000, however the meeting will now be held on the lower ground floor instead of on the second floor



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# Reunions & Functions

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## Broken Hill Reunion 2023 – 50 Year Anniversary Monday 20 March to Friday 24 March 2023

Reunion is for Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Friends are welcome.  
For reunion and accommodation details contact Tony Brown on 0428852736 or  
email [tr4950@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tr4950@optusnet.com.au)

# TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon

The TPI Association of NSW Christmas Luncheon will be held on:

**Tuesday 6 December 2022**

12 noon for 12.30pm

at Club York, Level 2, 99 York Street, Sydney.

A three-course meal and drinks will be served.

There will be lucky door prizes and live entertainment.

The cost is \$20 per person.

If you need a special meal please let us know.

If you'd like to attend, please complete the form below and return it to the TPI NSW office by:

**Tuesday 22 November 2022**

GPO Box 4429, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9235 1466 Email: [office@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:office@tpinsw.org.au).

*Please stay at home if you have any respiratory symptoms.*



Name		TPI Badge Number
Telephone (Home)	Telephone (Mobile)	Email Address
Number of People Attending	Cost per Meal: \$20.00	Total \$
Total Payment		\$

PAYMENT METHOD (Tick Box)

INTERNET TRANSFER     CHEQUE     MONEY ORDER     VISA     MASTERCARD

BSB: 082 001  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 025402663  
Please quote your surname and badge number in the details section of your internet payment.

CARD NO. 

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EXPIRY DATE 

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CVV NO. 

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CARDHOLDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_      SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



# HEADQUARTERS 1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE SOUTH VIETNAM 1966 - 1972

## HQ1ATF Association Reunion In Memory of Our D&E losses at Long Khanh – 12 June 1971

**Canberra: 18 – 21 November 2022**

**Capital Country Holiday Park**

**47 Bidges Road, SUTTON NSW 2620**

**Phone: (02) 6230 3433**

**Email: [bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au](mailto:bookings@capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au)**

**Web: [www.capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au](http://www.capitalcountryholidaypark.com.au)**

We have 112 members and wives/partners confirmed as of 20 August. If Veterans and/or widows of Veterans are travelling solo, we really would love to see you. We are all one big close family. A few members and wives were added and unfortunately a few members and their wives have had to withdraw due to illness.

About 60,000 Australian troops (Army, Navy, Air Force) were sent to SVN – one third of which were National Servicemen (Army). Today some 35,000 of the initial 60,000 are still alive. HQ1ATF/ D&E Platoon soldiers during this period numbered some 1200. So, we calculate that about 650 Vets are still with us. Our overall membership is about 375 Vets and should any of you be in contact with Veterans who have not heard of the Association let them know – as we get older it's good to have some mates around, those who also understand what we all went through during the War period!

Best regards,

John Verhelst - HQ1ATF Ass.

**[John Verhelst, MSc, MBA, JP](#)**

**Phone: 0437 212 121**

**Email: [jeverhelst@gmail.com](mailto:jeverhelst@gmail.com)**

**[www.hq1atf.org](http://www.hq1atf.org)**

## 2022 REUNION PROGRAM

### Friday 18 November 2022

1400 onwards: Arrival at Capital Country Holiday Park (CCHP) for welcome and registration

1800 onwards: Evening BBQ at the Mess Tent – CCHP.

### Saturday 19 November 2022

Breakfast: Own arrangements

1030 HQ1ATF Meeting (30 minutes).

1515 A busy afternoon and evening. Gentlemen, medals please. Coach transfer to RMC Duntroon for afternoon tea at Duntroon House, to be hosted by the PMC

1530 Arrive Duntroon

1615 Travel onto Anzac Parade for our Commemorative Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Our own Padre, Arthur Fry from Caloundra, will again officiate.

1630 Arrive Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (Bugler at 1700)

1715 Continue by coach to Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy) for cocktails

1730	Arrive Old Parliament House – cocktails and canapes
1830	Move to dining room, entertainment by RMC Military Band
1910	Main course is served.
1950	Words by Dr Mike Kelly
2005	Dessert
2100	Coaches back to CCHP.

### **Sunday 20 November 2022**

Breakfast:	Own arrangements
1000	Coach tour of Canberra visiting some of the major sites, including: Australian War Memorial, National Museum of Australia, Parliament House, National Gallery of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery. Return to CCHP about 1 PM.
1700	Cocktails at Mess Tent CCHP
1800	Informal dinner (no ties, no medals) at Mess Tent CCHP.

### **Monday 21 November 2022**

From 0800 Farewell “self-serve” BBQ breakfast at Mess Tent CCHP.

# **Veteran Yoga Mindfulness Program – Information**

The following information has been forwarded by Kevin Kelly, TPI NSW Junior Vice President.

As requested, please find below more details regarding the program.

What you have enquired about is a Yoga and Mindfulness program. We have come up with an amazing program that not only gives you improved strength and increased flexibility but also helps create mind-body awareness.

Life is busy, with too much to do and too little time. Technology, social media, the pressures of work, poor health, family and financial stress can push people to living in a constant state of stress. On top of that transitioning to civilian life can feel overwhelming or that you will never find your place in the world again. You may need time to grieve

your defence family and identity whilst creating your new sense of self in the civilian world. Living in a state of stress – day in, day out – is doing our physical and mental health harm. Our brains and bodies are not designed to withstand prolonged exposure to stress. Mindfulness is a strategy to counteract that.

Mindfulness is a scientifically-proven practice that is simple, time efficient and is a way to unwind during the day. It helps find us more focus and improves productivity. It only takes 10 minutes a day to change the neuroscience of our brains. A Mindfulness practice combined with regular Yoga will create a feeling of underlying calm whilst you go through your daily life. It physically brings down the stress and brings clarity to the mind.



## So what is included in the Body and Mind Yoga and mindfulness program?

**Fully funded Yoga** – Online through our dedicated website Yoga for Veterans and you can join on your phone/laptop/computer and do the yoga at home online at a time that's convenient for you and fits in with your schedule.

Please head to this link to watch one of our videos to give you an idea of what to expect with our online yoga platform –

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z2aevcp28z5z3fq/YogaforVeterans.mp4?dl=0>

**Free Class Link** –

<https://yogaforveterans.com.au/free-online-class/>

### Mindfulness Course

As part of the program you will also receive a weekly follow up call from a psychologist to make sure the program is working for you. They will be able to guide you, share great techniques regarding mindfulness including topics such as Self-care, Health, Fitness, Wellbeing, Sleep Strategies and Meditation. They are there to assist you should the program bring on any trauma or triggers. It is

important that you speak to them **ONCE** a week. If you do not then you will **NOT** be able to gain access to yoga.

This program is designed to help you make positive changes in your life and help integrate mindfulness from the physical activity of doing yoga to your everyday life. We have already seen great results from veterans currently in our program since June 2019 and would love you to join us as well.

If you have made the decision to join that's great, let me know and I can give you a quick call back to collect your details as well as provide you with information on online yoga so we can get you started.

Otherwise, if you require any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Lauren at [operations@bodymindonline.com.au](mailto:operations@bodymindonline.com.au) who can assist you further.


Have a wonderful day and look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Kind Regards,**  
**Rachel Jegathesan**



## Yoga and Wellness Program

 [admin@bodymindonline.com.au](mailto:admin@bodymindonline.com.au)

 [www.bodymindonline.com.au](http://www.bodymindonline.com.au)

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# Coffs Harbour Luncheon Address by TPI Federation Australia President, Ms Pat McCabe, OAM

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17 August 2022

I thank the NSW TPI Association Board for your kind invitation for me to attend and speak with you today. I truly enjoy these events and it is always a pleasure to catch up with the TPI Members.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of some of the NSW Board, the NSW Social Club Members, fellow TPIs and the hardest working people in the room, the spouses/partners of all TPIs. The TPI Federation fully supports all TPIs and their families and we have enjoyed a good relationship with the NSW TPI Association over many years and have the intention of continuing this well into the future.

Following the election, it has taken some time for the new Members of Parliament and Senators to settle into the routine of Parliament House. In the first sitting session of the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament in the last three to four weeks, the TPI Federation has managed to meet a number of MPs and Senators. This includes Senators Jacqui Lambie and Jim Molan, MPs Brian Mitchell, David Smith and Keith Wolahan, Veterans Gavin Pearce, Phil Thompson, Luke Gosling and DVA Opposition Minister Barnaby Joyce and of course the new DVA Minister, Matt Keogh. It would be wonderful to say that all these meetings were successful, especially the meeting with the new Minister, Mr Keogh. Unfortunately, this cannot be said. The negativity from some Members of both persuasions was extremely disappointing. This cannot be said for Senators Lambie and Molan or Members Gavin Pearce and Phil Thompson. The Minister has declared that he is unavailable for our upcoming National Congress next month and that too was disappointing.

It leaves the TPI Federation in a position where, except for a couple of shining lights, there is little room for advocacy for our Members. This means that your TPI Federation now needs to be clever and work even harder in order to represent you in a manner that you deserve. The TPI Federation is always looking for ideas and suggestions from you, the Members and your families, to enhance the services and benefits for all TPI/SRs. This of course includes the younger Veterans, who need us now more than ever. We need those younger Veterans to come forward and make yourself known to us so that your concerns and needs can be addressed. Without that we just don't know what is required by you.

Prior to Covid our representations on your behalf have had many successes. Over the decades, many TPI Federation Presidents achieved a number of things for you including the ten-year campaign to correct the indexation issue on the TPI compensation payment. Of more recent times, and since my election to this position in 2015, there have been some successes and some continuing campaigning still required. One of the great successes for those of us in most need was the acceptance of the 15-year campaign to have rent assistance available for TPIs. This benefit began on January this year. Prior to Covid, another success was that the Department was questioned at Senate Estimates on TPI issues on a continual basis. Because of the Covid restrictions this had to be discontinued but we expect to be back into action with the commencement of the new Government when they restart their sitting calendar later this month.



*TPI Federation President Ms Pat McCabe, OAM, speaking to TPI NSW members at an event held at the Coffs Harbour Services Club on Wednesday 17 August 2022.*

The other huge success that we have achieved is that for the past two elections we have had issues addressed within election promises. The first, in 2019, was the realisation of the Tune Review into the TPI Compensation payment along with the removal of the need for a 12-session Treatment Cycle Review for Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiologists for all TPIs. Following a nine-year campaign, this year, 2022, and also as a result of the recent Senate Inquiry, we successfully saw a promise for an increase to the TPI Compensation payment. Though disappointed that the increase was a mere ten percent of what is required to bring us up to the minimum wage level, it is a start. The TPI Federation thanks the previous DVA Opposition Minister, Shayne Neumann, MP, for his advocacy on this issue.

The Federal Labor Party election promise of increasing the TPI Compensation payment by \$1,000 per annum was most welcome and this promise was reiterated by the Prime Minister in his acceptance speech on the night of the election. It

is hoped that inflation, and the increased cost of living, will not impact too much on the \$19.38 per week increase which was promised to commence on 1 January 2023! But I suspect it will. The TPI Federation will continue to advocate further with the new Government in an effort to regain some of the seven-decade, that's right 70 years, decline in the TPI Compensation payment. Almost ten years ago, when our campaign began, our TPI Compensation was ~65% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage, and prior to the election it was ~62%. Today, following the increase in the minimum wage that was announced after the election, we now find ourselves back to the level of only receiving ~60% of the tax-adjusted minimum wage for our economic loss compensation. Therefore, your continued support is just as important as it has ever been. There have been some TPIs who, following the increase this year in the TPI indexation in March, the cost-of-living subsidy of income support payments and deeming rates levels in July have still had a negative effect



on their payments. Some to the extent of \$50 per fortnight or more. **If you have had this happen to you, can you please contact our office?**

Just a couple of other items that may be of interest :

- a. You are reminded that the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is continuing, and will recommence in Darwin on 17 October 2022.
- b. The DVA Home and Maintenance program that commenced on 1 January 2022 for VEA clients, has had some teething problems that you may be aware of. DVA has advised that providers for this service should be available by early 2023. If you have any difficulty in obtaining these services, please email or call the Association or myself.
- c. Also Rent Assistance was made available for TPIs as of 1 January 2022 and if you think you may be eligible for this, information can be found at your NSW TPI centre.
- d. The Travel allowances for medical treatment

were adjusted from 1 July 2022. The new rates can be found at <https://bit.ly/3Qfgfrp>.

- e. DVA, in conjunction with Services Australia, provides free face-to-face assistance through all their service centres and Mobile Service Centres <https://bit.ly/3tw9EPF>. The Mobile Service Centres travel around Australia to assist regional Veterans with their enquiries. In addition, there are 22 regional service centres that provide extra Veterans' Information Services (VIS). The Mobile Service Centre timetable can be found at <https://bit.ly/3MIVp0E>.

I have some business cards available here today should you wish to take one and please contact me should you need to at any time.

Again, thank you for your continuing support and enjoy your day.

**Ms Pat McCabe, OAM**

**TPI Federation President**

**Phone: 0417 291 546**

## Invitation: Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPIs) & Special Rate (SR) Veterans

**The Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club's members invite TPIs/Special Rate (SR) to come and experience our club.**

**The club meets at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Club Blacktown (formally the RSL club).**

**This invitation stands for our general meetings.**

Prior to the monthly general meetings, members and wives/carers meet in the Villaggio restaurant to socialise (about 11:45am). Meetings are held in a room set aside on the day. Post-meeting members are treated to cold or hot drinks and more socialising in the Villaggio restaurant.

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

[ibrady@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ibrady@bigpond.net.au) to arrange a member to meet & greet you or just walk in.

The club is the most active TPI Social & Welfare Club in the state, with a different activity each month which could be a meet at a point of interest/ event or a day coach trip.

- Social events are subsidised.
- Longer 3-day country tours are also conducted once per year.
- The purpose of this invitation is to encourage TPIs to join our club and participate and socialize.
- You are encouraged to join the TPI Association of NSW to give it strength in numbers when dealing with government.

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# Vale Queen Elizabeth II, Commander-in-Chief

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In 1939 at the start of WWII Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth II, and her sister Princess Margaret were evacuated to Windsor Castle. In the castle loudspeakers were installed to warn of air-raids, basements were converted into bomb shelters and black-out blinds and curtains ensured that the castle would not be visible from the night sky. Elizabeth's and Margaret's war activities included "Digging for Victory" by growing fruit and vegetables on their allotments at Windsor. In 1940, from Windsor Castle, Princess Elizabeth gave her first public speech – a morale raising radio address to other evacuated children. On her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 1942, Elizabeth was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of the Grenadier Guards and carried out an inspection of the regiment at Windsor.

During WWII Buckingham Palace was bombed

nine times. Despite this, King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth, later the Queen Mother, showed solidarity by spending most of the war at the palace. George VI held the military ranks of Admiral of the Fleet, Field Marshal and Marshal of the Royal Air Force (RAF). During the war the King and Queen visited workplaces and inspected troops, the King always appearing in military uniform. The King and Queen also visited parts of London that had been damaged in air raids. Queen Elizabeth said that after the bombing of Buckingham Palace she could "look the East End in the eye". King George's highly visible support of the war effort notwithstanding, he was quoted by *Life* magazine as saying that Princess Elizabeth's training as a member of the Royal Family "outweighed the nation's increasing manpower problems and that 'Betts' should not



*Princess Elizabeth Inspecting Grenadier Guards, 21 April 1942*



*Princess Elizabeth, as a 2nd Subaltern in the ATS, leans against a vehicle during training. Imperial War Museum, TR 2835.*

“I remember we were terrified of being recognized so I pulled my uniform cap well down over my eyes.” She described the “lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, and all of us [being] swept along by tides of happiness and relief.” It was reported that Elizabeth and Margaret joined a conga line as they took part in the festivities.

Princess Elizabeth’s romance with her future husband, Prince Philip, blossomed during the years of WWII. Elizabeth and Philip were formally introduced in 1939 at Britannia Royal Naval College, where Elizabeth and

join any of the women’s auxiliaries, nor work in a factory”.

Having lived much of her early life against the backdrop of the war, Princess Elizabeth had other ideas. She was determined to “do her bit”, and when she was 18 signed up for war service. She subsequently joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), where she trained to be a motor driver and mechanic. During her training, Princess Elizabeth worked seven hours a day. She passed her final driving test by making a solo trip in a heavy vehicle from Camberley to London, a journey of almost 60 kilometres. However, the war ended before she had a chance to make more extensive use of her automotive skills. On Victory in Europe (VE) Day, 8 May 1945, Princess Elizabeth joined her sister and parents along with Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to greet crowds celebrating the end of the war in Europe. As night began to fall on VE Day Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret anonymously joined the celebrating crowds, Elizabeth wearing her ATS uniform. Queen Elizabeth II later said of that night,

her family were touring the grounds. It’s said that 13-year-old Elizabeth was smitten with the 18-year-old “Greek God” who escorted her family around the naval college campus. Elizabeth and Philip corresponded by mail throughout the war years while Philip served with the Royal Navy. He fought in the Battle of Crete, and his subsequent bravery in the Battle of Cape Matapan resulted in Philip being mentioned in dispatches. Aged 21, he became one of the youngest first lieutenants in the Royal Navy. In July 1943, aged 22, he devised a plan to distract enemy bombers from a night attack using a decoy raft covered with smoke floats.

Elizabeth and Philip married in 1947, the same year in which Elizabeth was appointed Colonel in Chief of the Balaklava Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. When Elizabeth married Philip, he was a serving naval officer. From 1949 to 1951 Philip was stationed with the Mediterranean fleet in Malta and during this time Elizabeth lived privately as a naval wife. In addition to Elizabeth and Philip, many other members of the Royal Family have served in the military. This





*Lieutenant Arno Tielens receives the Queen's Gold Medal for Trainee Officer of the Year 2004 from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Also pictured is the Commanding Officer of HMAS ANZAC, Captain Richard Menhinick (centre), the Australian Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie and his wife Julia.*

includes Princes William and Harry and King Charles III. Anne, Princess Royal has long been Colonel-in-Chief of both the Royal Australian Corp of Signals and the Royal Australian Corp of Transport. Queen Elizabeth has stated, "Having had members of my family serve in each of the Armed Services, I know only too well of the pride Service personnel take in their duty".

On ascending to the throne in 1952 Queen Elizabeth II became Head of the Armed Forces. During her working life, the Queen held over 50 ranks and appointments in the UK and Commonwealth Armed Services. Much of her time involved visits to military bases and ships, meeting members of the Armed Forces and their families. She supported veterans through her many patronages, including the Not Forgotten

Association, for which she held annual garden parties in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth II also led regular Remembrance events throughout her reign. In 2020 she marked the centenary of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, presiding over the placing of a wreath at the Tomb in Westminster Abbey 100 years after her grandfather King George V placed the first wreath at the Tomb. The bouquet placed on the Tomb in 2020 included orchids and myrtle, based on the Queen's bouquet from her wedding in 1947. This reflects the custom of placing Royal bridal bouquets on the Tomb. During the 2020 ceremony Queen Elizabeth's piper played the lament, *The Flowers of the Forest*.

Queen Elizabeth II's seven decades as sovereign and Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed

Forces are an inspiring example of service. The length of the Queen's reign and her personal popularity have contributed to an outpouring of grief in response to her death. The death of Queen Elizabeth II has also led to reflection on the complex legacy of Britain's colonial past, as represented by the British Royal Family. For many from "the colonies" the British monarchy is seen as signifying the brutality of colonialism, including the slave trade. Perhaps King Charles III's comments,

on his recent visit to Ghana, about the "profound injustice" of slavery herald a new British moral leadership. Any stain on the British Imperial brand notwithstanding, Queen Elizabeth II has departed life as a much-admired symbol of devotion to her role as British monarch.

**Alexandra Kaufman**

**Salute Subeditor**

**email: [subeditor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:subeditor@tpinsw.org.au)**



*The Queen's Equerry, Lieutenant Colonel Nana Kofi Twumasi-Ankrah, places a bouquet of flowers at the grave of the Unknown Warrior on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II (centre) during a ceremony in London's Westminster Abbey, 7 November 2020. Photographer: Aaron Chown / Alamy Stock Photo.*





AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

# AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS

Tertiary scholarships for children and grandchildren of  
Australian ex-serving veterans

## Apply online

Applications open Vietnam Veterans' Day  
18 August 2022

And close midnight 31 October 2022

Scholarships provide \$4000–\$6000 per year, for three years, to full-time students enrolled in a minimum one-year course at uni, TAFE or RTO.

To be eligible a student must be the child, stepchild, foster child or grandchild of an ex-serving Australian veteran. Scholarships are awarded to students based on financial need and academic potential.

[avcat.org.au](http://avcat.org.au)



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# DVA Media Releases

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## Veterans' Health Week 2022 Kicks Off Today

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

1 October 2022

Get out your kitchen utensils and put on your best apron as Veterans' Health Week 2022 kicks off. With this year's theme focusing on "Eat Well", Veterans' Health Week is an opportunity for ex-service organisations and community groups around the nation to host events to promote healthy eating habits and improve people's knowledge of nutrition.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh

said while Veterans' Health Week officially runs from 1 - 9 October, events span right across the month of October. "There are lots of free events happening across Australia including educational presentations on nutrition and how to eat well on a budget. Something for everyone is on offer, I encourage you to get involved and show your support for fellow veterans," Minister Keogh said.

Veterans' Health Week is an annual program run by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, with the aim of bringing the veteran community together in the interests of promoting a healthy lifestyle. "I look forward to seeing the creative ways the veteran community participate in the events and activities, and encourage you all to Eat Well during Veterans' Health Week" Minister Keogh said.

If you would like to know more about Veterans' Health Week, or find an event happening near you, visit [www.dva.gov.au/vhw](http://www.dva.gov.au/vhw).



Photographer: Alessandro Biascioli, Shutterstock.

## More Supports Available for Veterans in Residential Aged Care

4 October 2022

From 1 October 2022, DVA expanded access to allied health care services and the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) to all eligible veterans, widows and widowers living in residential aged care facilities, regardless of the level of care they are receiving. Previously, only those DVA clients with low level care have been able to access DVA-funded allied health care services and aids and appliances. These DVA clients will now have access to allied health and RAP services in their residential aged care home, so long as they don't duplicate those the aged care facility is funded to provide. This change has been made in line with the new funding model for residential aged care which came into place from 1 October 2022.

Services provided as part of residential aged care range from assistance with tasks of daily living and personal care, to complex nursing care. Residential aged care is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing and is for older people who can no longer live at home, or who no longer wish to live at home.

To find out more about residential aged care and to arrange a free assessment with an Aged Care Assessment Team, call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422. For more information on the Rehabilitation Appliances Program, visit [www.dva.gov.au/providers/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap).

### Media contacts

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh's Office):

+61 407 034 485

DVA Media: [media.team@dva.gov.au](mailto:media.team@dva.gov.au)

## Albanese Government Takes Action on Veteran and Family Support

30 September 2022

### The Hon Matt Keogh, MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

The Albanese Government has this week passed two vital pieces of Legislation supporting Defence personnel, veterans and families.

Legislation extending the Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying Pilot Program, and the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package will both go a long way to ensuring veterans and families get the support they need and deserve.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said extending the pilot program until June 2023 means that veterans undertaking study as part of their Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) funded return to work rehabilitation program will continue to receive incapacity compensation payments calculated based on 100 per cent of pre-injury earnings. "This pilot program will ensure that hundreds of veterans can continue their education as they transition from service without having to worry about changes to the household budget. This will ultimately increase their capacity and, indeed, opportunities for employment, which is a key predictor of success as they return to civilian life. It will ensure they are best placed to succeed," Minister Keogh said.

"This Legislation is backdated so those veterans whose payments ended on 30 June 2022 due to the inaction of the previous Government are not out of pocket. Making sure our veterans and their families are well supported and looked after as they transition from the Australian Defence Force is an

important task and responsibility of government – a solemn commitment. And that’s why it is so disappointing the former Liberal-National Government did not deliver on the passage of these pieces of Legislation in the last Parliament.”

The Defence, Veterans’ and Families’ Acute Support Package will enhance the existing program by expanding services available to families in times of crisis and allowing families greater choice in how they use those services. Minister Keogh said the Acute Support Package will better equip working-age families to adjust to new or challenging life circumstances when they occur and also in the future. “This Legislation will better improve support

for families who are bereaved, and those who are in crisis – no matter the nature of that crisis. We want to ensure supports are wrapped around families when they need it – and quickly.” Said Minister Keogh

The Albanese Government is committed to the task of saving lives and ensuring a better future for our Defence and veteran communities.

#### **Media contacts**

Stephanie Mathews (Minister Keogh’s Office):

+61 407 034 485

DVA Media: [media.team@dva.gov.au](mailto:media.team@dva.gov.au)

## **Contact and Feedback**

**We value your feedback!**

**If you have any feedback on what we are doing, please contact us through the following channels:**

**By Post:**

**TPI Association of NSW  
Level 4, 55 York Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001**

**Email: [editor@tpinsw.org.au](mailto:editor@tpinsw.org.au)**

**Phone: (02) 9235 1466**

**Free Call: 1800 649 216**

**Website: [www.tpinsw.org.au](http://www.tpinsw.org.au)**

**Affiliated with The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Limited.**

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***Our mission is to ensure the welfare of all members and their recognised carers***





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