



## Support for Veterans – Scott Palmer Services Centre

This initiative provides \$3.6 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24 to deliver on the Australian Government's commitment to provide funding to the Council of Australian Veterans to support the planning, design and construction of the Scott Palmer Services Centre in Darwin, Northern Territory. The Centre will include a six-unit temporary accommodation facility with an office space for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

### Why is this important?

The Scott Palmer Services Centre will provide transitional housing for homeless veterans. The Council of Australian Veterans will operate the facility, providing veterans with support to find permanent housing solutions and link to services to gain civilian employment opportunities.

Homelessness is a significant issue in the Northern Territory, with the rate of homelessness 12 times the national average. Research shows that former Australian Defence Force members are overrepresented in Australia's homeless populations, with veterans more likely to engage with veteran-operated services than general mainstream services. The Council of Australian Veterans will provide military-aware support that reduces the barriers for veterans accessing support.

The Centre will facilitate connections with DVA and Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling, linking veterans to programs that address the factors that contribute to veterans experiencing homelessness. This includes addressing mental and physical health issues, family and relationship breakdowns, interactions with the criminal justice system, and civilian employment.

The Scott Palmer Services Centre will complement the Australian Government's investment in a network of Veterans' and Families' Hubs to assist veterans to connect with the local community and assist with the transition from the military to civilian life.

### Who will benefit?

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Darwin region.

### Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

### How much will this cost?

\$3.6 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24.