



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

***Deputy Commissioners Consultative forum – Tasmania***  
**Meeting Minutes**

***13 August 2025***

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Sally Dennington	Deputy Commissioner Tasmania
Kate Morris	Executive Officer
Tim Hancock	RSL Tasmania
Sandie Wilson	Mates4Mates
Garry Beven	Advocacy Training and Development Program
Kevin Evorall	Legacy Launceston
LTCOL Neil Grierson	Senior Australian Defence Force Officer
Brian Harper	Vietnam Veterans Association Australia – Tas
Don Ryan	Veterans Reference Group
David Waddle	Hobart Legacy
Jenny Robertson	RAAF-Association

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Melissa Foale	Women's Veteran Network Australia - Tasmania
Brian Ellis	Naval Association Australia
Ray Williams OAM	Totally & Permanently Incapacitation Association
Karelle Logan	Department of Premier and Cabinet

**Meeting commenced at 1400**

**Business arising:**

Apologies noted.

**Agenda items submitted:**

NIL

**Bernice Kain - Assistant Director – Residential Aged Care**

Presented on residential aged care. Presentation will be emailed to DCCF member after the meeting for future reference.

**Deputy Commissioner update:**

Gwen Cherne has finished her appointment as the Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner, and the appointment of Annabelle Wilson as her replacement.

Dr Steph Davis as the new DVA Chief Health Officer.

There should be an announcement of the new Director for Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) in the next few months.

The works have commenced at the Launceston OAWG's depo, this will have no impact on visitors to the site. The Garden of Remembrance works have not yet started in Hobart, OAWG's will engage with stakeholders prior to the commencement of works.

**Attendee update:**

**Open Arms (OA):**

The new OA office in Hobart will be open to clients on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. An early DCCF end of year function will be held in November to showcase the space.

**Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO):**

BAU. The Fearless Festival is being held in Hobart this week with MAJGEN Natasha Fox attending.

**Advocacy:**

The MyOrg system is displaying some issues and not working as it should. Feedback on these issues will be provided to the Deputy Commissioner to follow up on.

**Veterans Reference Group (VRG):**

The new state Veterans' Affairs Minister has been announced as Gavin Pearce. The VRG are currently reviewing the terms of reference for their group. The state Veterans' Wellbeing Vouchers are available, including to spouses and families of Veterans.

**Returned Services League:**

RSL Tasmania will be holding opening events at their Hobart and Launceston hubs.

**Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA):**

The RAAFA are holding commemorative drinks for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II at the end of the months. RAAFA is also ramping up for the Battle of Britain commemorations next month.

**Meeting closed at 1545**

**Next meeting 14 November 2025, 1400**