Veteran and Family Representative Program

Frequently asked questions

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) invites eligible veterans and family members to express their interest in becoming a veteran or family representative at selected overseas Anzac Day commemorative services.

Veteran and family representatives work alongside DVA delivery teams and contribute to the successful delivery of significant commemorative events on behalf of Australia's veteran and family community.

We value the lived experience that veterans and family members continue to bring to DVA led international Anzac Day services. Please be aware that interest in this program continues to grow, however the number of roles available is limited.

About the program

What is the role of a Veteran or Family Representative?

Veteran and family representatives contribute to the delivery of overseas Anzac Day commemorative services alongside DVA delivery teams.

Representatives are expected to:

- represent the veteran and family community
- contribute positively and professionally to the delivery of commemorative activities
- work collaboratively as part of a broader team
- participate in required briefings, meetings and preparation activities
- undertake activities assigned to the Representative role while deployed.

The representative role is distinct from the functions undertaken by DVA's event delivery workforce.

Where will Veteran and Family Representatives be deployed?

The planned locations for 2027 are:

- Gallipoli, Türkiye
- Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Sandakan, Malaysia

- Hellfire Pass, Thailand
- Isurava, Papua New Guinea
- Singapore

Final deployment arrangements are subject to DVA's operational requirements.

Eligibility

Who can apply?

The program is open to:

- current serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF)
- veterans and former serving ADF members, regardless of when they served
- family members of current and former serving ADF members
- family members of deceased ADF veterans.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their connection to the Australian veteran and family community and their ability to contribute as a veteran or family representative at an Anzac Day commemorative service.

Do I need previous experience at an overseas commemorative service?

Previous participation in an overseas commemorative service is not required.

Applicants should demonstrate how their experience, skills and connection to the Australian veteran and family community would enable them to contribute effectively as a representative.

This is a unique opportunity for representatives to connect with the community through lived experience. Applications are invited from individuals who have not previously participated in a DVA-led international Anzac Day service.

Are there additional requirements for particular locations?

Yes. Some locations involve more physically demanding environments or activities.

For example, applicants for Isurava will need to meet specified trekking fitness requirements. Successful applicants must also meet any health, fitness-for-travel, passport and visa requirements relevant to their destination.

Can I apply if I am currently living overseas?

Yes. You can apply if you are currently living overseas, provided you meet the program's eligibility and participation requirements.

If you are successful, you will need to:

- be in Australia to attend the mandatory in-person briefing
- be in Australia on the nominated departure date for your overseas deployment
- travel on the return international flights arranged by DVA from and back to Australia
- participate in required online meetings and other pre-deployment activities.

Any travel required to return to Australia to attend the briefing or to join the DVA-arranged international departure would be your personal responsibility and cost.

Do I need an Australian passport?

Yes. Successful applicants must hold a valid Australian passport and ensure it remains valid for the required period of overseas travel.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining or renewing their passport and meeting the associated costs.

DVA will provide advice to successful applicants about any additional visa or entry requirements for their allocated destination.

Is there an upper age limit for applicants?

No. There is no upper age limit specified for the program. Applicants must be 18 years or older at the time of application.

Applicants should consider whether they can meet the requirements of the Representative role, including the relevant health, fitness and travel requirements.

Can I apply if I have a health condition or physical limitation?

Yes. Having a health condition or physical limitation does not, by itself, determine whether you can apply.

It is not necessary to seek medical clearance for your application, however successful applicants may be required to obtain medical clearance. A medical practitioner may determine that an applicant is:

- medically suitable to undertake the role

- medically suitable subject to adjustments, restrictions or other considerations
- not medically suitable to undertake the role at that time.

The requirements vary between locations, so applicants should consider the physical and operational requirements.

Applying and selection

How do I apply?

Applications are submitted through DVA's online EOI process.

Applicants will need to provide all information requested in the application, including a statement of claims and written referee report.

What should I address in my statement of claims?

The statement of claims is an opportunity to explain why you would be suitable to undertake the role of a Veteran or Family Representative.

Applicants should address the published selection criteria and provide clear examples that demonstrate their relevant experience, skills and ability to contribute to the program.

Do I need to provide a referee?

Yes. Applicants will be asked to provide a written referee report as part of their application.

The EOI will explain the referee requirements and the information the referee will be asked to provide.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed against the published selection criteria.

Assessment will consider the information provided through the online application, including the statement of claims and written referee report.

Shortlisted applicants may then be invited to interview.

Will I need to attend an interview?

Shortlisted applicants may be required to participate in an interview as part of the selection process.

Applicants progressing to interview will receive further information about the process.

Will checks be undertaken as part of the selection process?

Yes. Applicants progressing through the selection process may be subject to relevant suitability, integrity and other required checks.

Participation in the program will be subject to the successful completion of all required checks.

When will I know the outcome of my application?

The EOI is open from **Friday 16 October to Sunday 8 November 2026**.

DVA intends to complete the assessment, shortlisting, interview and selection process **as soon as possible after the closing date**.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome once the selection process is finalised.

Time commitment and preparation

How much time will I need to commit to the program?

Successful applicants will need to be available for all required program activities, including:

- **Canberra briefing:** up to two to three days, including travel where required, to attend the full-day team briefing
- **overseas deployment:** approximately 7 to 14 days, including travel, depending on the location
- **team meetings:** several online meetings before and after deployment, generally around one hour each
- **other preparation:** any location-specific preparation or administrative requirements associated with deployment.

Do I have to attend the briefing and team meetings?

Yes. Successful applicants are expected to participate in the required briefing, team meetings and other preparation activities associated with their deployment.

What preparation will I need to undertake?

Preparation may include:

- attending a team briefing in Canberra

- participating in online team meetings
- completing location-specific preparation
- attending role and operational briefings
- completing relevant health, travel and administrative requirements.

Successful applicants will receive further information about requirements relevant to their location.

Travel, accommodation and expenses

What travel and accommodation costs will DVA cover?

For successful applicants, DVA will:

- book and pay for return economy airfares for required travel to Canberra for the briefing and to the relevant overseas location for Anzac Day
- provide taxi vouchers or reimburse reasonable taxi or rideshare costs between the individual's home and nearest airport, including the return journey
- arrange and pay for required in-country ground transport
- book and pay for accommodation required for the Canberra briefing and overseas deployment
- pay meal and incidental allowances in line with DVA travel policy
- cover insurance for overseas travel.

DVA is required to operate in line with whole-of-government travel rules and requirements. For this reason it is not possible to make changes to the above arrangements based on personal preference.

Will DVA cover visa costs?

If a visa is required, representatives are responsible for applying for the visa and paying the cost upfront.

DVA will reimburse the cost of the required visa.

What other items will DVA provide?

- DVA will provide successful representatives with required uniform and clothing items.
- DVA may provide a mobile phone for use during the overseas deployment.

What costs am I responsible for?

Representatives are responsible for:

- obtaining or renewing their personal passport
- required medical checks and vaccinations
- personal mobile phone, device, telephone or internet costs
- personal clothing, footwear or equipment appropriate to the conditions at the relevant location.

Unless otherwise advised by DVA, these costs are the responsibility of the Representative.

Overseas deployment

How long will I be overseas?

Representatives may need to be available for approximately **7 to 14 days**, including travel to and from Australia.

The exact duration will depend on the deployment location and program requirements.

Who will support me while I am overseas?

Representatives will work alongside DVA's event delivery teams.

Each location will have defined leadership and operational arrangements. Representatives will be briefed on their roles, responsibilities and relevant escalation arrangements before deployment.

What will I be expected to do during deployment?

The specific activities will vary between locations.

Before deployment, representatives will receive information about their responsibilities, expected activities and the boundaries of the Representative role.

Representatives are expected to work collaboratively with the broader team and follow reasonable directions associated with the delivery of the commemorative event.

Can I undertake personal travel while overseas?

No. It is expected that representatives remain part of the official DVA delivery team.

Can family members accompany me on the overseas deployment?

The official program arrangements are for the selected Representative only.

DVA is unable to accommodate accompanying family members as part of the official program. Travel, accommodation and other program arrangements provided by DVA apply only to the successful Representative.

It is acknowledged that family members may wish to travel to the Anzac Day service for which the success representative is located, however they must travel separately, at their own cost, and the priority for representatives must remain with the DVA delivery team.

What happens if I am selected but can no longer participate?

We understand if your circumstances change, but encourage you to advise us if you have any concerns as soon as possible. If you are unable to meet the program commitments, you should advise DVA as soon as possible.

This will allow DVA to consider alternative arrangements, including offering the opportunity to another suitable applicant where appropriate.

What happens if I am selected but later cannot meet the medical or fitness requirements?

If your circumstances change and you are no longer able to meet the program requirements, you should advise DVA as soon as possible.

DVA will consider the circumstances and any relevant medical advice to inform your continued participation.

Before you apply

Before submitting an application, applicants should consider whether they can:

- commit to the full preparation and deployment period
- attend required briefings and team meetings
- travel internationally for the required period
- meet relevant health and fitness requirements
- work collaboratively as part of a DVA-led team
- represent the veteran and family community professionally
- undertake the requirements of the Representative role
- meet passport, visa and other travel requirements.

Applicants should read all EOI information carefully before submitting their application.