



## COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII

Victory in the Pacific Day (VP Day) on 15 August 2020 marked 75 years since the end of WWII. This significant anniversary was acknowledged through the following activities:

- A nationally-televised commemorative service from within Aircraft Hall at the Australian War Memorial to remember the more than one million Australians who served during the Second World War.
- *75 Days, 75 Stories* – sharing the stories of those impacted by the Second World War - one story every day for 75 days leading up to 15 August 2020 - was published via the Minister for Veterans' Affairs social media channels.
- *#OneInAMillion* – Australians involved in the Second World War were recognised through interviews with eight survivors of the war, a public campaign encouraging Australians to post photographs of themselves holding an image of their family member who served in the war to the virtual Wall of Respect, and a series of interviews broadcast on radio.
- A mailout to all schools with commemorative posters and information, education resources and podcasts.
- The issue of a commemorative medallion and certificate of commemoration (available by registration) to all living veterans of the Second World War as a way of thanking them personally for their service.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

While Australia can never repay the debt we owe almost one million Australians who served, particularly the some 39,000 men and women who died in defence of our country, this is one of the last remaining opportunities as a nation to publicly acknowledge those who served Australia during the Second World War.

### WHO WILL BENEFIT?

It is important that the Australian community understand the commitment made by almost one million Australians to their nation during the Second World War. Recognising the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families is an important and enduring practice that supports veteran wellbeing.

### DATE OF EFFECT

The campaign commenced on 2 June with the first story of the *75 days, 75 stories* campaign published, and was finalised with a National Commemorative Service held on 15 August 2020 at the Australian War Memorial.

### HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

\$1.1 million in 2020-21.