



Increase funding for War Graves care and maintenance

This initiative provides additional funding for the Office of Australian War Graves over the next four years to address the increasing costs associated with the care and maintenance of the resting places of Australian war dead in over 75 war cemeteries and war plots in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and more than 336,000 official commemorations in almost every community cemetery in Australia, including Norfolk Island, the Torres Strait and in ten Gardens of Remembrance.

Why is this important?

The additional \$12.5 million in annual funding will enable the Office of Australian War Graves to effectively prioritise and manage service delivery, asset care and maintenance and ensure that all commemorative assets are maintained to the high standards expected by the Australian community. This also allows the Office of Australian War Graves to meet its commitments to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in order to appropriately acknowledge service and sacrifice in perpetuity for a debt that can never be fully repaid.

It also demonstrates the Government's commitment to support the Australian public's ongoing and growing interest in military history and commemorative activities which has increased public engagement, requests for information and a higher tempo of maintenance and presentation. Australians are very connected to our military history, and our activities under the War Graves program are both highly valued and highly visible among veterans and the broader community alike.

Who will benefit?

Australian veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war, conflict and peacekeeping operations, veterans who died post-war due to war caused/related symptoms, families of these veterans, the broader veteran community, and ultimately all Australians.

Date of effect?

1 July 2021.

How much will this cost?

\$12.5 million over four years.

