

**State Minister's Message
Issue 48 (7 January, 2010)**

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

Australian Government Community Cabinet

In keeping with the State Government's commitment to ensure the veterans' community in South Australia is given a voice at a senior political level, the Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM, would like to draw your attention to the attached advertisement that appeared in the Advertiser on Monday, 4 January and Wednesday, 6 January, 2010 (Page 17).

The advertisement invites you to register to attend a Public Forum here in Adelaide on Wednesday 20 January. You can also, if you wish, apply to meet personally with a member of the Federal Cabinet.

What an opportunity!

If you truly believe you have an issue of a Federal nature you would like to talk about, or if you have a suggestion that you think should be considered by the Commonwealth, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment to see the appropriate Minister or at least attend the public forum.

For example, Bill Denny has registered to meet with the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon. Lindsay Tanner M.P. to discuss the Matthews Review.

Not all requests for a meeting will be successful, but the fact you have registered your wish to meet a Minister and the nature of your intended discussion, will be a real barometer to the Cabinet about the matter you deem important.

Please call Bill Denny at Veterans SA on p: 8207 1723 if he can be of assistance. Note also that if you wish to take some of your colleagues to your meeting, this is possible, providing you have their details at the time of registration.

Registration must occur before 4.30pm on Friday 8 January (i.e. tomorrow!) and can be done over the phone by ringing 1800 088 323 (toll free).

Do not miss this unique and rare opportunity.

Detailed below is a list of the Ministers who will be present and some other information provided by the Australian Government about the Adelaide Community Cabinet Meeting.

The Hon Kevin Rudd Prime Minister	The Hon Joe Ludwig Cabinet Secretary and Special Minister of State
The Hon Penny Wong Climate Change and Water	The Hon Julia Gillard Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Social Inclusion

The Hon Wayne Swan Treasurer	The Hon Chris Evans Immigration and Citizenship
The Hon Lindsay Tanner Finance and Deregulation	The Hon Simon Crean Trade
The Hon Stephen Smith Foreign Affairs	The Hon John Faulkner Defence
The Hon Nicola Roxon Health and Ageing	The Hon Jenny Macklin Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
The Hon Anthony Albanese Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	The Hon Stephen Conroy Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
The Hon Kim Carr Innovation, Industry, Science and Research	The Hon Peter Garrett Environment, Heritage and the Arts
The Hon Robert McClelland Attorney-General	The Hon Chris Bowen Human Services
The Hon Martin Ferguson Resources and Energy, Tourism	The Hon Tony Burke Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Registration

To attend the Community Cabinet you must register in advance. Registrations open at 9.00am (CDT) on Monday 4 January 2010 and close at 5.00pm (CDT) Friday 8 January 2010 unless maximum capacity is reached prior. Registration to attend the public forum can be completed online at www.pmc.gov.au/community-cabinet. If you are unable to access the online registration process or the privacy and security notice, please contact the Community Cabinet Secretariat in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on: 1800 088 323 (toll free), (02) 6271 5563 or via fax on (02) 6271 5405. TTY services are available on (02) 6271 5845.

Request a one-on-one meeting with a minister and public forum attendance

To request a one-on-one meeting with a minister you must contact the Community Cabinet Secretariat – this will also register you to attend the public forum. (NB: you cannot request a one-on-one meeting online). The Community Cabinet Secretariat can be contacted on 1800 088 323 (toll free), 02 6271 5563 or via fax on 02 6271 5405. TTY services are available on 02 6271 5845.

You may only make one meeting request, with one minister.

You can request a meeting with a minister either as an individual or as a family/group. All individuals including children must be registered.

Family/group registrations are limited to five individuals. You will be required to provide the full name, date of birth, residential address, daytime contact phone number and full date of birth for each member of your family/group at the time of making the request. Please have these details to hand.

Prior to calling the Secretariat, please consider what you want to talk about to the minister. This information will be provided to the ministers' office to support your one-on-one meeting request.

Each meeting will be limited to 10 minutes.

On the day

You will be required to show photo identification at the registration desk on the day of the meeting.

As large bags may be subject to security search we recommend that you reconsider bringing such items to the meeting.

No banners or signs allowed inside the meeting venue.

V.A.C. Meeting Dates for 2010

As listeners may be aware from the 16 December State Minister's Message, the inaugural members of the V.A.C. have been re-appointed by Minister Atkinson for a further 12 month term commencing on 1 January, 2010.

The V.A.C. meeting dates for 2010 are as follows:

- 10am, Thursday, 4 February, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 8 April, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 3 June, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 5 August, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 7 October, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 2 December, 2010

Members of the veterans' community who wish to have a matter considered by the V.A.C. should contact the Executive Officer of the V.A.C., Mr Bill Denny AM by telephone on 8207 1723 or by email: denny.bill@agd.sa.gov.au.