



State Minister's Message
Issue 34 (1 October, 2009)

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

Sergeant Brett Till

Sergeant Brett Till, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician from the Incident Response Regiment in Holsworthy, New South Wales, was killed by an explosion that occurred during a route clearance task in Southern Afghanistan on Thursday, 19 March 2009.

Minister Atkinson sincerely regrets his loss and the tragedy that has befallen his family. Minister Atkinson applauds the action by the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Alan Griffin MP in ordering an urgent departmental investigation into the difficult circumstances facing Mrs Breeanna Till and her children.

Minister Atkinson says it is imperative that Mrs Till receives all the support to which she is entitled, following evidence she gave to a review of military compensation arrangements last week.

Australian Defence Force Chief Angus Houston announced Mrs Till would be allowed to stay in her home until September 2010.

The Commonwealth Government expects to receive the recommendations from an inquiry set up to review military compensation arrangements early next year.

Aboriginal Veterans' War Memorial gets a Champion!

A memorial to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans who have served Australia in time of war is planned for Torrens Parade Ground.

Announced last year, \$250,000 has been raised toward a project total of \$500,000.

Last week saw a full size timber model temporarily erected on the Parade Ground site. The model turned heads and showed how the memorial will complement the Parade Ground Precinct.

Present to view the model was Vietnam veteran Graham Cornes, who has recently been appointed "Champion" of the project. Les Kropinyeri, an Aboriginal veteran who served with 9 RAR in Vietnam, said Graham's appointment was "fantastic".

"Graham was a champion footballer and now he is championing our cause. He is a champion bloke!" he said.

Minister Atkinson fully supports this worthwhile project that will forever link our Aboriginal veterans with the military heartland of our State.

The model has now been removed and the Committee is continuing to fund raise. Donations are needed to help make this special Memorial a reality and contact should be made with Andy Robb on 8226 8881.