

State Minister's Message Issue 15 (20 May, 2009)

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

Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC) Meeting

The Veterans' Advisory Council met on 7 May and discussed proposed study of military history in schools, potential Centenary of ANZAC projects, formulation of a draft State Commemorative Calendar, a planned review to compare concessions granted to veterans in South Australia with those granted by other states, the RAR Association Exercise Trojan Trek, the official opening of the Gallipoli Underpass, ANZAC Eve Youth Vigils held across the state and other commemorative activities that took place on ANZAC Day.

Visit to South Australia by Her Excellency the Governor- General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC and His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE.

Members of the veterans' community were prominent at a reception hosted by the Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Mike Rann MP given in honour of Their Excellencies the Governor General and Mr Michael Bryce during their visit to our state.

Their Excellencies said they thoroughly enjoyed meeting members of the veterans' community and wanted to thank them for all they had done for South Australia over so many years.

Review of Military Compensation Arrangements

The Australian Government has commenced its promised review of military compensation arrangements.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin emphasised the importance of the review in ensuring the Government is providing appropriate support and compensation to Australia's veterans and ex-service personnel.

"This review is a significant step by the Government towards addressing long standing issues with military compensation, including disparities and perceived inequities between systems and difficulties encountered by those transitioning out of the services or making claims.

The review will examine the operation of the current military compensation schemes, with specific reference to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

"This work is in response to numerous concerns expressed by the veteran and ex-service community about the operation of, and support provided by, the current military compensation system."

The Minister today released the Terms of Reference for the review and called for interested members of the public and organisations to make submissions.

The review will be undertaken by a Steering Committee of senior Commonwealth government officials and members of the community with appropriate expertise, and chaired by the Chair of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission. The Committee will report directly to the Minister.

"The review will make recommendations around any legislative and administrative changes that may be needed, as well as compensation available for members of the Australian Federal Police who have deployed overseas."

Submissions close 30 June 2009.

Details of the terms of reference and review are available online at www.dva.gov.au/pensions/milcompreview/.

The Review Secretariat can be contacted via phone (02) 6289 6095 or email milcomp.review@dva.gov.au.

With Courage and Humanity Regional Tour - Weekly Update

In the coming weeks the Badcoe VC will be on display in the following locations:

21 May	Kingston, SE	Kingston Community School Library Gall Park, East Terrace, Kingston 10.30am-6.00pm
22 May	Tailem Bend	RSL Hall, 57 Trevena Road, Tailem Bend 11.30am-3.30pm
23-24 May	Adelaide	Torrens Parade Ground Victoria Drive, Adelaide Both days: 11.00am-4.00pm
26-27 May	Bublacowie (near Yorketown)	Bublacowie Military Museum, Bublacowie Minlaton-Yorketown Road, Yorke Peninsula (c20kms from Yorketown or Minlaton) 26 May: 12 noon-5.00pm 27 May: 10.00am-2.00pm
30-31 May	Adelaide	Torrens Parade Ground Victoria Drive, Adelaide Both days: 11.00am-4.00pm