



## State Minister's Message Issue 38 (28 October, 2009)

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

### Veterans' Advisory Council

The Veterans' Advisory Council (V.A.C.) met on 22 October for the seventh time this year. Minister Atkinson congratulates the V.A.C on the success of its regular and busy meetings. It is important that the veterans' community, one of the most important sections of our society, is represented professionally and at the highest level in its dealings with Government. The V.A.C. was formed to provide a voice for the veterans' community directly to the Cabinet table and is doing that successfully.

At the October V.A.C. meeting the followings matters were discussed/progressed:

- A briefing was received from Ian Kelly, Deputy Commissioner for the D.V.A. in South Australia about the membership and functions of the four new D.V.A. national forums.
- An update was given on the Centenary of ANZAC Projects recommended by the V.A.C. for funding consideration in activities commemorating the anniversary of World War One.
- The concept design for the Ex-Service Commemorative Calendar was agreed upon.
- The initial approach to the State Government about the concessional treatment of veterans in South Australia was agreed.
- A proposal to classify veterans as a "Special Needs" group was progressed.
- The *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes* by Mr Trevor Matthews was discussed and a position determined.
- Ward 17 at the Repatriation General Hospital was discussed.
- The production of a short film documenting the military service of Aboriginal South Australians was discussed.
- The V.A.C.'s Annual Report was presented.
- The success of Trojan's Trek 2009 was acknowledged.

### Veterans' Voice Newsletter

Keep an eye out for the *Veterans' Voice* newsletter that is being sent out with various Ex-Service Organisation publications in the coming weeks. This high quality newsletter is for veterans, widows, partners, former partners, children, parents, siblings and relatives of ex-servicemen and women, anybody with an evident link to the veterans' community. It will be a way to pass on information and tell the stories of those who have given so much for our State and nation.

If you would like to receive a copy of *Veterans' Voice* directly, or submit an article for a future edition, please contact Veterans SA on p)8207 1723.