

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance



**CIRCULAR**

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**THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE  
OF AUSTRALIA  
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH)**

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**PATRON**

**HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL THE HONOURABLE DAVID HURLEY AC DSC (Retd)  
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

CIRCULAR NO: 29/16

FILE NO: JOB/GK: 1561

14<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

TO: ALL HONORARY SECRETARIES AND SECRETARIES OF RSL SUB-BRANCHES,  
DISTRICT COUNCILS AND STATE COUNCILLORS

***EXPIRY DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016***

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**State Branch Update**

As members may be aware there have been a number of reports circulating in the media since mid-September this year which have resulted in issues arising within State Council and across other entities of the League. Developments have moved rapidly which has hindered the ability of State Branch to keep the membership up to date with what actions have taken place. This circular is designed to give members an overview of the actions of State Branch in relation to these issues.

1. An issue was raised in relation to receipt of out of pocket expenses from a sub-Branch by a member of State Council and this has prompted State Branch to undertake a forensic audit of all executive and councillor expenses for the past 7 years.
2. Information was received regarding members of State Council who were being paid consultancy fees from RSL LifeCare in their capacity as RSL NSW nominated directors of RSL LifeCare. RSL NSW has reported its concerns with this issue to both the ACNC and the Office of Fair Trading. State Council has asked those members to stand down from their position as State Councillors pending the outcome of a Board of Inquiry. To date, Mr Hardman has stood down from his duties as State Treasurer and Messers Crosthwaite and Humphreys have been removed from all State Council sub-committees and representations but have not stood down as State Councillors.
3. RSL National has engaged a law firm to investigate the issue of volunteer councillors receiving consultancy fees. RSL NSW is cooperating with this investigation.
4. The Australian Government through the Australian Charities and Not-For Profit Commission has requested documentation from RSL NSW to investigate whether persons may have been misusing charitable funds and may have also received consultancy fees which were not declared as a conflict of interest or declared to the members of the Charity. RSL NSW is cooperating fully with the investigation.

Further to the internal and external investigations into these matters, RSL NSW State Councillors Dr Rod Bain and Mr Ian Henderson have decided to resign from State Council effective immediately. It should be noted that neither gentlemen were/are the subject of any investigation.

The above mentioned investigations are a result of State Branch and others following the principles of good governance and should be viewed by the membership as a positive action. State Branch is committed to ensuring that both the letter and intent of our Constitution is upheld by all members regardless of any position they hold within our organisation. As a result the findings of these investigations will be made available when and where possible.

State Branch recognises the concern that some members may have in relation to these activities however we ask that members reserve judgement on these issues until the full course of the investigations can be run.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn', with a large, stylized flourish that loops around the text.

Glenn Kolomeitz  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER