

**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 (Ret'd)  
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

CIRCULAR NO: 03/17

FILE NO: GK/JSF: 1502

25 January 2017

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

*EXPIRY DATE: 31 May 2017*

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**State Branch Update**

As you may be aware there have been a number of reports circulating in the media and social media since mid-September last year regarding the RSL NSW State Council.

At times we have not been able to provide you – our members – the most up to date information due to the rapid pace or confidentiality. Despite this, we always set out to ensure our membership is kept up to date and this circular is designed to give members an overview of what has happened at State Branch recently.

State Branch received the below Circular from the RSL National Board and we feel it is important that we share this with you.

We will endeavour to keep you as informed as possible throughout this process and encourage you to work with the staff at RSL NSW to focus on our mission: to provide for the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of serving and ex-serving Defence Force personnel and their families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Kolomeitz', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Glenn Kolomeitz  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## **RSL NATIONAL CIRCULAR**

On 17 January 2017 the RSL National Board initiated disciplinary proceedings against the RSL New South Wales Branch and its governing State Council.

The National Board issued a charge sheet under RSL National By-Law 8.8 outlining 2 charges:

Conduct prejudicial to the interests of the RSL in relation to expenditures by a former RSL State President's resignation and the lack of transparency with the RSL Membership in relation to the resignation  
Bringing the League into disrepute and in relation to the negative media attention associated with these events.

Evidence indicated that the former NSW State President resigned due to careless spending on a corporate RSL credit card and not due to ill-health. Under Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC), the body that oversees charities, Governance Standards, RSL NSW State Branch, its governing State Council, was required to be transparent with the RSL NSW Membership. The evidence to date indicates that transparency did not occur.

RSL NSW State Branch and its Council, was served with the Charge Sheet, a Statement of Facts and Evidence and is required to provide comment within 14 days. In addition to this, the National Board issued an order to show cause why it should not undertake a vote of no confidence in RSL NSW State Council's ability to properly govern the NSW Branch. The State Council must appear before the Board, in Canberra, on 3 February 2017.

On 18 January 2017, members from the NSW Police Force's Fraud and Cyber Crime Squad attended ANZAC House in Sydney to meet with the RSL NSW Chief Executive Officer and the RSL Investigator. The next day, a NSW Police spokesman publicly stated, to various media outlets, that "detectives from the State Crime Command's Fraud and Cybercrime Squad have launched Strike Force Whitbread to investigate the matters and determine if any criminal offences have been committed."

The Board continues to work with Federal and State investigators who are looking into matters at RSL NSW State Branch. KordaMentha continues with the RSL forensic investigation. The drafting of Terms of reference for the RSL Board of Enquiry is underway.

The RSL NSW Membership, may at any time call an extraordinary Congress by 75 Sub-Branches signing a Congress Direction under RSL NSW Constitution Clause 21.9(b). In the meantime, the Board is doing everything possible, within our rules, to mitigate these matters.

As further information becomes available we will issue updates so that the Membership stays informed.