



BALMORAL CASTLE

11th August, 2023.

Dear Major-General Melick AO

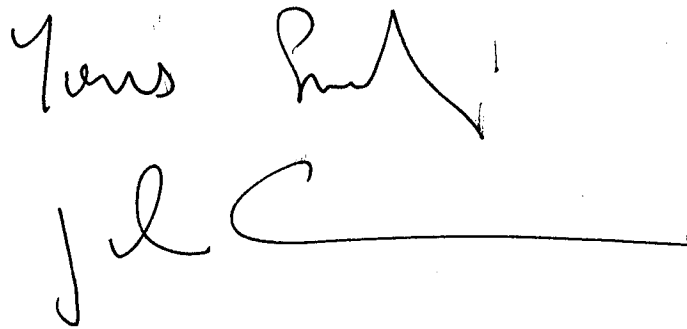
Thank you for your letter of 9th December addressed to Sir Clive Alderton in which you kindly propose that The King becomes Patron of the Returned and Services League of Australia (R.S.L.). Please do accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. As I am sure you will understand, due to the high volume of correspondence received since September, it has not been possible to reply until now.

As you may already be aware, the Royal Household is conducting a detailed review of Royal Patronage over the coming months. The review will cover the organisations of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was Patron and those organisations to which The King and The Queen were connected through Patronage or Presidency as The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

As such, I propose that we consider your request as part of the wider review. My office will be in touch following the review and due to the large numbers of organisations involved, it would be very much appreciated if you would be content to wait to be contacted rather than to make individual enquiries.

Further to the above, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending through a copy of an application for membership from Viscount Mountbatten. I note with interest that he was one of several distinguished overseas members of the (R.S.L.).

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through our careful assessment. Their Majesties The King and The Queen are grateful for your understanding at this time.

Handwritten signature of Dr. John Sorabji, consisting of the name 'John Sorabji' in cursive above a stylized signature 'J.S.' followed by a long horizontal line.

Dr. John Sorabji
Deputy Private Secretary to The King

Major General A. G. Melick.