

Title Update on Actions from previous Congresses

Last Updated 11 September 2023

Action is being undertaken on all outstanding motions from the 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022 Annual Congress. The following motions are open, and actions being taken.

Motion	Action	Status
Motion 8 (2019)		
"That RSL NSW approach the Department of Veterans' Affairs to lobby that the Medical fraternity and its associated bodies be allowed to receive the same rate of compensation for services rendered to veterans who either possess a White Card or Gold Card as they would for persons treated under the Government's Workcover agreement"	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with Australian Medical Association (AMA)	Completed
	AMA confirmation fee schedule issue	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with NVAC, to then be passed to ESORT	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Medical fees under DVA being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.		
Motion 9 (2019)		
"That RSL NSW investigate excessive waiting time for veterans seeking psychiatric appointments"	Contact Ben Folino at Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) re. waiting times and DVA fee schedules	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with NVAC, to then be passed to ESORT	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with DVA via Deputy Commissioner's Forum	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Waiting times for psychiatric appointments being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.		
Motion 11 (2019)		
"That RSL NSW take action to address with Government the issue of Defence pensions being included in the calculation of the gross value of ex-Defence members Self-Managed Super Funds and the imposition thereof of tax at 15% for any values above the newly set cap"	Contact ATO re. the calculation of the gross value of ex-Defence members' Self-Managed Super Funds	Completed
	Form partnership with Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA)	Completed
	Chase ATO advice	Completed
	Respond to ATO	Completed
	Contact with Minister	Completed
	Chase ATO advice	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing	

Outcome Achieved: Response from Treasury clarifies that the cap only applies to a very small proportion of taxpayers that have very high total superannuation balances, that the income tax legislation applies to all taxpayers equally, and that there are no plans to revisit the current rules in respect of the taxation of military superannuation benefits received by members of Self-Managed Super Funds.		
Motion 20 (2019)		
"That the Returned and Services League of Australia calls on The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia, to transfer responsibility for the identification, protection and interpretation, of our wartime heritage along the Kokoda Trail from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)"	Draft letter to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the issue.	Completed
	Response from PM and FM on the issue	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Response from the Federal Government has reiterated that DFAT will continue to manage the protection and maintenance of the Kokoda Track. However, DFAT has committed to working with DVA under a \$10 million program to commemorate the bonds between Australia and Papua New Guinea on proposed projects, tourism, military heritage, health, safety and livelihoods.		
Motion 22 (2019)		
"That RSL NSW makes representations to the Law Society of NSW to approve Volunteer category practicing certificates for lawyers working pro bono with accredited veterans' advocacy centres and not just with community legal centres"	Draft letter for NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA)/Law Society NSW regarding the issue	Completed
	Response from OVA	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs and Law Society NSW determined that it was not possible to implement the motion as written under current legislation or under current requirements.		
Motion 21 (2019)		
That the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) request RSL National make representation to the Federal Government and Minister for Defence to recommend to the Governor General that the following amendment be made to the determination under the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951 - 1972 regulation: Members of the Merchant Navy / Mercantile Marine who registered for National Service, had that service deferred by the Minister and then had that capability of volunteering removed due to the nature of their Mercantile Marine service being in the public interest; satisfies the requirements applicable to be awarded the medal.	Contact with RSL National	Completed
	RSL National contact with Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal	Completed
	Follow-up with RSL National – 3 rd time – Advised by RSL National Board they would not raise matter further	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL National has determined that due to the number of previous reviews, they would not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW is working with Gresford sub-Branch to determine what steps will be taken next.		

Motion 35 (2018)		
<p>“That RSL NSW make representations to the Australian Government to include former Citizen Military Forces (CMF) together with current and former Reservists in Non-Liability Health Care provisions (as detailed in Factsheet HSV109 Non-Liability Health Care).”</p>	Contact DVA – find out what the justification for current policy is	Completed
	Raise matter with NVAC/National	Completed
	Raise issue with ESORT	Completed
	Raise matter with Minister for Veterans’ Affairs	Completed
	Raise matter with Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs	Completed
	Advocate for change through Budget process	Ongoing
<p>Outcome Achieved: This matter is ongoing, with several National ESOs pressuring both the Government and the Opposition to introduce NLHC for all Reservists. The matter will be addressed through the Government’s Legislation Reform Process, with RSL continuing to pursue change – the issue remains a policy priority within the Budget Cycle advocacy process.</p>		
Motion 2 (2021)		
<p>THAT RSL NSW liaises with NSW Health and other relevant departments to enable RSL NSW sub-Branch wellbeing support officers to support veterans admitted to NSW public hospitals through:</p> <p>(a) being informed that a veteran has been admitted to hospital;</p> <p>(b) being informed that a veteran is willing to be contacted by an RSL NSW wellbeing support officer through:</p> <p>(i) using a check box on the admission form to record the veteran’s wishes; and</p> <p>(ii) the hospital alerting an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer via a designated telephone number; and</p> <p>(c) clearance to visit the veteran during their stay in hospital using NSW Health protocols; and</p> <p>(d) assisting the veteran to connect to local support or services they need.</p>	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Initial contact with OVA, Hunter Health, NSW Health and Legacy	Completed
	Follow-up contact with OVA and NSW Health	Completed
	Rollout to all LHDs through NSW Health Minister	Not started
	Comms to SBs advising of process	Completed
	Letters sent to LHD Chiefs and Minister for Health – 10 August 2023	Completed
<p>Outcome Achieved: Hunter New England Health District has made it clear they have a veteran identifier on their intake forms, and a suitably qualified and RSL-endorsed wellbeing support officer is able to visit veterans in hospital with the veteran’s consent. RSL NSW is working to have this process implemented in all Local Health Districts across NSW, and discussions are ongoing. RSL NSW is yet to receive a response from LHD Chiefs, or the office for the Minister of Health. Updates will be provided to Wingham sub-Branch in due course.</p>		
Motion 3 (2021) - Closed		
<p>THAT RSL NSW ask the Federal Government to consider the proposal from the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association (AATTVA) TPI WA Branch that a non means tested, tax free service pension for all TPI recipients,</p>	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Raised to NVAC	Completed
	Raised to ESORT	Completed

regardless of age be implemented and that the disparity between widower pensions and the current TPI payment, should be addressed by increasing the payment to the full TPI amount.	Closed with SB	Completed
Outcome Achieved: Issue has been closed with Gresford sub-Branch.		
Motion 4 (2021)		
THAT RSL NSW support the issuing of a second Vietnam Service medal, currently reserved for those veterans who served at least 180 days in country, to all Vietnam veterans, irrespective of time in country.	Initial Contact	Completed
	VSPC Approval for plan	Completed
	Raised at NVAC	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	NVAC determined not to raise the issue further, due to number of past determinations rejecting the application	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Completed
Outcome Achieved: RSL National will not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW has asked the sub-Branch whether it wishes to continue pursuing the matter through RSL NSW only.		
Motion 5 (2021)		
THAT RSL NSW consult with the Premier of New South Wales to have the War Memorial situated on the marble wall in the entrance to the former Maritime Services Board building returned to its former glory by arranging the removal of a multi panelled painting which conceals the War Memorial.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Initial letters drafted to MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Completed
	Receive response from MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Completed
	Raise in face-to-face meeting with NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Completed
	Raise with new Minister for Veterans' Affairs – 29 June 2023	Ongoing
	Contact sub-Branch to determine next steps	Ongoing
	Response from Government	Pending
	Outcome provided to sub-Branch	Pending
Outcome Achieved: A report has been created to monitor the progress of this issue, however, there has been minimal work ongoing with the MSB War Memorial due to the change in government, and further research being undertaken to identify the issues raised by MCA.		
Motion 8.5 (2021)		
THAT RSL NSW approach RSL National for the purposes of RSL National expanding the Charitable Purpose to include persons: a. who are veterans within the definition in the <i>Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019</i> ; and b. who have served or are serving as a member of the Armed Forces of: (i) any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Matter raised to NVAC	Completed
	Rewrite Initial paper	Completed
	Re-raise matter to NVAC	Completed
	Raise matter to RSL Australia Board	Ongoing
	Approval by RSLA Board – End of September	Not started

<p>(ii) any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;</p> <p>(iii) the United States of America; or</p> <p>c. to whom (a) or (b) does not apply but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:</p> <p>(i) either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Force or the Armed Forces of those countries or places referred to in paragraph (b) above; or</p> <p>(ii) served as a member of the Armed Forces of another country or place which, during that time of conflict, was an ally of the Commonwealth.</p>		
<p>Outcome Achieved: The motion is before the RSL National Board for consideration. If it is accepted, the Charitable Purpose of RSL Australia will be amended.</p>		
<p>Motion 7.1 (2022)</p>		
<p>RSL as Peak Body That the RSL is the lead ex-service organisation (ESO) ensuring the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide are implemented, in collaboration with other ESOs.</p>	<p>Raise with VSPC</p> <p>Hold National ESO Forum</p> <p>ESO Forum Report & Submission</p> <p>Hold Follow-Up Forum</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Motion 7.2 (2022)</p>		
<p>DVA Consultation with ESOs That the RSL work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and other ESOs to ensure that DVA consults more effectively with ESOs, including through the implementation of adequate reporting, governance, and implementation processes.</p>	<p>Raise with VSPC</p> <p>Raise with DVA NSW Deputy Commissioners Forum</p> <p>Raise with National Veterans Affairs Committee (NVAC)</p> <p>Raise with ESORT</p> <p>Raise directly with Minister for Veterans' Affairs</p> <p>New ESORT and DVA Legislation Reform Consultation Process</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Motion 7.3 (2022)</p>		
<p>Homelessness That RSL NSW prepare a business case for the Government, through the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, for addressing homelessness and the risks of homelessness within the Veteran Community by incorporating into law a statutory right to shelter and protection from homelessness, including an express statutory protection to acknowledge and manage the higher risk of veteran homelessness.</p>	<p>Contact Ourimbah-Lisarow</p> <p>Sub-Branch to draft initial submission</p> <p>Raise with VSPC</p> <p>Raise with NVAC</p> <p>Determine next steps with sub-Branch – 13 July 2022</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Outcome Achieved: Ourimbah-Lisarow proposed that Homelessness be a policy priority for the government to address to improve veteran outcomes. This included wraparound supports in employment, health, and education. At the request of Ourimbah-Lisarow, a draft Bill was prepared and forwarded for their approval. Veteran Homelessness raised as Policy Priority by RSL National.</p>		
<p>Motion 7.4 (2022)</p>		
<p>Solar Panel Service That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) implement and provide a Solar Panel maintenance service for eligible veterans.</p>	Contact City of Queanbeyan	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Contact DVA/NSW Government	Completed
	Closed with sub-Branch – 11 August 2023	Completed
<p>Outcome Achieved: Speaking with OVA, they noted that the Commonwealth, NSW Government and power companies were currently organising rebates, with administrative work to be finalised by November 2023. They cited that \$600 will be delivered per eligible veteran and will be rolled out to other eligible members of the community. Queanbeyan sub-Branch was satisfied with the result.</p>		
<p>Motion 7.5 (2022)</p>		
<p>Fund to Support Veterans at AAT That RSL NSW establish a funding mechanism to provide assistance to veteran's who have appeals before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and require financial assistance to produce specialist medical reports and pay for these medical specialists to appear at a Hearing where required.</p>	Contact City of Sydney	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Raise with RSL LifeCare	Completed
	Advice sought and provided re. Options through Support and Assistance Fund – 10 July 2022	Completed
	Next Steps TBD with sub-Branch	Ongoing
<p>Outcome Achieved: City of Sydney proposed a solution to see sub-Branche undertake funding for support and assistance for veterans at AAT hearings. With sub-Branch representative overseas, next steps are TBD.</p>		
<p>Motion 7.6 (2022)</p>		
<p>Advice to Seek Advocate Support That RSL NSW approach the Department of Veterans' Affairs to include a notice in the online MyService claims portal advising veterans to seek the assistance of a suitably qualified advocate prior to lodging their claim.</p>	Contact City of Sydney	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Raise with NVAC/DC Forum	Completed
	Raise with DVA	Completed
	ESORT Decision	Ongoing
<p>Outcome Achieved: RSL NSW has approached the Department of Veterans' Affairs to include a Notice in the online MyService claims portal directing veterans to seek advice through an appropriately qualified advocate prior to lodging their claims. Contact has been made with the City of Sydney. This issue has been raised with VSPC, NVAC and DVA, however, a decision is still pending from ESORT.</p>		