

**The Returned & Services League of Australia  
(New South Wales Branch)**

**Notice of 2023 Annual Congress &  
Annual General Meeting**



*“The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”*

ANZAC House  
Level 11, 175 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
ABN 78 368 138 161

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# Agenda

The Annual Congress and Annual General Meeting will be held at Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (NEX), 309 King Street Newcastle, over two and a half days from Sunday, 22 October to Tuesday, 24 October 2023 in-person and via remote access.

## SUNDAY – MEETINGS & WELCOME FUNCTION

- 12.00pm District Presidents Council Meeting (DC Presidents only)
- 2.00pm Joint Board and DPC Meeting
- 5.00pm Welcome Function for Delegates, Alternate Delegates and observers

## MONDAY - ANNUAL CONGRESS

- 8.00am Delegate pack collection
- 9.00am **Congress Open**
  - President Message
  - Act of Remembrance
  - RSL Pledge
  - Welcome by Lord Mayor
  - National President's Address
  - Patron's Address and Awards
  - State President's Shield
  - RSL NSW Cheque Presentation
- 10.30am *Break*
- Strategic Plan Update**
- 12.30pm *Lunch provided*
- RSL LifeCare Veteran Services**
- 3.00pm *Break*
- Veterans Policy Update**
- 4.30pm **Close**

## TUESDAY – ANNUAL CONGRESS / AGM

- 8.00am Collection of voting devices
- 9.00am **Open**
  - Board Report
  - District Presidents' Council Report
  - Ask ANZAC House Open Forum
- 10.30am *Break*
- 2023 Annual General Meeting Open**
  - President's Report
  - Financial and Auditors Report
  - Motions

Note: lunch is provided and scheduled for 12.30pm

Announcement of 2023 election results

TBC - **Close**

**Note:** Delegates and members can submit questions for any of the sessions on Monday and Tuesday by sending them to the Support Unit on [support@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au) prior to the meeting.

# Annual General Meeting

**Pursuant to Clause 8.11 of the RSL NSW Constitution, the Board gives notice that the Annual Congress and Annual General Meeting of The Returned & Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) will be held at Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (NEX), 309 King Street Newcastle, over two and a half days from Sunday, 22 October to Tuesday, 24 October 2024 both in-person and via remote access.**

There are several items of business for consideration by Delegates. These include the approval of proposed amendments to the RSL NSW Constitution, motions submitted by sub-Branches and District Councils and the adoption of the financial statements and reports for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Returning Officer appointed for the Annual General Meeting is Mr Jeff O'Brien, State Secretary.

For the purpose of Appendix B, clause 7(e) of the RSL NSW Constitution, Delegates have the right to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. A Delegate eligible but unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, for any reason, may appoint either the AGM Chair, an RSL NSW Director or their sub-Branch District Council Delegate as a proxy to vote on their behalf. The closing date for the appointment of proxies is Monday 16 October 2023. The Constitution requires a proxy appointment form to be submitted to the Returning Officer, Jeff O'Brien. Proxy appointment forms are available on the RSL NSW website: [rslnsw.org.au/members-suite/congress/](https://rslnsw.org.au/members-suite/congress/)

## Items of Business

1. To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the proposed resolutions set out in Annexure A to the Notice of Meeting; and
2. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of RSL NSW and the reports of the Board and the Auditors in respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2023 set out in the Annual Report at Annexure B to the Notice of Meeting.

## ANNEXURE A - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 1. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (attached at Appendix A)

That Members adopt the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

### 2. Register of Motions (attached at Appendix B)

That Members note:

- a) the summary Register of Motions passed at the 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022 Annual Congress and the status of their implementation; and that
- b) in accordance with the resolution passed by Members at the 2019 Congress, that an updated Register will be provided to members within two (2) calendar months of the conclusion of the 2023 AGM.

### 3. Endorse Wording of Constitution

That Members endorse the wording of amendments to the RSL NSW Constitution that were approved at the 2022 RSL NSW Annual General Meeting and came into effect on 1 January 2023.

### 4. Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditors Reports

That Members:

- a) adopt the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for RSL NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2023; and
- b) note the Annual Report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2023 and that the Annual Report will be lodged with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs following the 2023 AGM.

### 5. Venue for Next Congress/AGM

That the venue for the next RSL NSW State Congress / Annual General Meeting conducted by way of in person attendance will be **Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, 309 King Street Newcastle West**.

### 6. ANZAC House Motions

#### 6.1 Acknowledgment of the Fallen

**Proposer – Brooklyn sub-Branch**

**Endorsed – Northern Metropolitan DC**

That RSL NSW adopt the following Acknowledgement of the Fallen for utilisation at meetings and gatherings where members feel that it is appropriate to do so:

*Acknowledgement of the Fallen*

*"I/We acknowledge the veterans of our commonwealth and of our allies:*

*Those who serve and have served,*

*Those prepared to support our citizens, regardless of colour, creed or persuasion.*

*Those who have suffered, bled and died for us.*

*I/We honour and respect our fallen comrades...*

*(followed by the Ode where considered appropriate)."*

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

The 'Ode' remains an important component of remembrance within the veteran community, and it is not in question that its adoption and ongoing utilisation by the RSL is a fundamental expression of respect and honour for our fallen.

The matters of overutilisation and contemporary relevance of the 'Ode' in today's environment are worth questioning.

In the first instance, the use of the 'Ode' in RSL Clubs and former Clubs has become a rote and cheapened exercise. In many cases, customers in these clubs barely pause from their drinks, meals or poker machines during the ritual citing of the 'Ode' over the loudspeakers. This has led to a cheapening and reduction in its significance and impact upon the general population.

The 'Ode' when taken in isolation often lacks context and a suitable introduction to its purpose. As a short passage from a longer and now dated poem, its relevance and meaning in contemporary society is open to question. This is particularly so when it is utilised in environments where more contemporary statements of significance are also made.

This Motion proposes a standard form of words that may be utilised in support of the 'Ode', where RSL NSW members feel that more context and relevance may be required or warranted.

It is not intended as a replacement for the 'Ode' – rather, it is proposed as a complement to it.

### **6.2 Recognition of Partners of Veterans**

**Proposer – Castle Hill sub-Branch**

**Endorsed – Far Western Metropolitan DC**

That partners of serving and ex-serving members are recognised for the exceptional support that they have given to their Australian Defence Force members in peace and war.

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

ADF members are involved in wars, peacekeeping and peacemaking operations, aid to the civil authorities during floods and fires, deployments, postings to various locations, on exercise and courses, and a range of other commitments that require them to be away from their partners for significant periods of time. Whilst away their partners take over what the members usually do such as paying the bills, getting the car serviced and registered, arranging for repairs to home and appliances, managing alone, children's illnesses, mowing lawns, and much more.

The partners also have concerns about financial matters, and about their members' safety particularly during war like operations and aid to the civil authorities that cause mental anguish and worse.

Without the willing support of partners, ADF members would not be able to do what is expected of them. Further, this support helps retain ADF personnel in-service and is about RSL veterans and families.

Recognition of partners providing exceptional support to their ADF partners deserve an award and, if the motion is successful, an expert committee would be required to establish the type of award, the criteria for it as well as the nomination and selection processes.

Partners do deserve an award for exceptional support to their ADF members.

## **Agenda Committee Comments**

It was noted by the Agenda Committee that the supporting argument for this motion calls for the establishment of an award for partners of veterans. The Committee noted the difficulty that would entail when attempting to develop the criteria and selection process for this award. They also noted that an award already exists within the League for recognising non-Service Members who give outstanding service to ex-service personnel or their dependents, the Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge.

### **6.3 Middle East Area of Operations Annual Commemoration**

**Proposer – Glenorie sub-Branch**

**Endorsed – Far Western Metropolitan DC**

That RSL NSW lobby RSL Australia to establish the 11<sup>th</sup> of July annually as the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) National Commemorative Day, with the inaugural commemoration being 11 July 2024.

#### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

There is currently no Commemorative Day established to honour those ADF Personnel who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan during 2001 – 2021. All troops were withdrawn from MEAO on 11 July 2021. Do not let the adverse actions after Vietnam be repeated. We, as a Veteran Support organisation need to embrace these ADF Personnel and their families. Complies with Charitable Purpose as per Constitution 3.3. Supports and augments Strategic Plan Goals 1, 3, 4 and 6.

### **6.4 Australian National Flag Protocol**

**Proposer – Moree sub-Branch**

That RSL NSW endorse the use of the Australian Flags booklet issued by the Australian Government as the correct protocol for the use of flags prescribed under the Flags Act 1953 by RSL NSW sub-Branches.

#### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

The Policy is that Australia's National Flag takes pride of place when flown with other flags. e.g. The Australian Flag when flown with an even number of flag poles must be flown on the first and last flagpoles.

When flown on an uneven number of flag poles the Australian flag must be flown on the centre flagpole.

In peace time all flag poles must be the same height.

Flags of other nations must be flown in alphabetical order.

Other Nations flags take precedence over state flags and other flags.

### **6.5 National Membership**

**Proposer – City of Albury sub-Branch**

**Endorsed – Far South Western DC**

That RSL NSW:

1. supports the concept of introducing National Membership of the RSL; and
2. should pursue National Membership of the RSL with RSL Australia and the other RSL State Branches.



### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

National Membership would allow members joining the ADF from day one to be offered National Membership of the League which would then allow their postings from state to state and overseas without the need to rejoin in each state as the posting cycle moves members every couple of years as is the situation today and in my day.

As an example, I returned from Vietnam in December 1967 and joined the Gosford RSL sub-Branch and for the next 44 years of my service I was posted interstate on many occasions. As with State driving licences, state vehicle registration, gun licences it was just too difficult to maintain RSL Membership.

If National Membership had been available at the time, I would now have been a member for 56 years and not just 13.

DVA now provides members joining the ADF with a DVA number which has been a great advantage for members when leaving the ADF.

So, it could be for the RSL.

Concern about funding could be addressed if the proposal is adopted nationally.

This is not an erosion of state membership but an enhancement for the long-term future of the National League and re-installing the significant influence that the RSL once had.

Strong numbers mean a strong League.

## **7. VETERAN POLICY MOTIONS**

### **7.1 NSW Government Entitlements**

#### **Proposer – Far South Western DC**

That RSL NSW make representation to the NSW Government to offer similar exemptions and discounts to veterans and their families as offered by the Victorian Government.

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

During November 2022 the Premier of Victoria, The Hon Daniel Andrews announced that the Victorian Government would be introducing the Victorian Veterans Card to help Veterans and their families with the cost of living.

The Victorian Veterans Card will entitle Veterans to a \$100 discount on the registration of one vehicle as well as free public transport on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

The card will also offer free trailer and caravan registration and free fishing and boating licences, encouraging veterans to participate in outdoor recreation and connect with their friends and families.

On top of the discounts the card will give veterans access to dedicated employment programs to help them find careers after finishing their period of service, making sure the transition to new work is as smooth as possible.

Whilst the NSW Government has made similar exemptions and discounts to Pensioners in general these are not available to the younger generation of veterans that are not on a pension.

Therefore, it is requested that these exemptions and discounts be made available to all veterans whether they are on a pension or not.

## **7.2 Veteran Homelessness**

**Proposer – Ourimbah-Lisarow**

**Endorsed - Central Coast DC**

That RSL NSW approach the Minister for Homelessness to introduce into the NSW Parliament a Bill for an Act to provide all veterans and their dependents with a legally enforceable right to shelter of a standard that enables them to meet the cost of living in New South Wales.

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

The newly installed NSW Government is committed to improving access to affordable housing for all and in particular vulnerable groups within the community. The veteran community is a vulnerable group because their members have a 5.2% risk of homelessness which is almost three times higher than members of the community as a whole who face a 1.9% risk (source: Report by Australian Housing Urban Research Institute to DVA, 2019). This significantly higher risk warrants the enactment of an immediate statutory protection ahead of a longer term and permanent constitutional protection through amendment to the Constitution of NSW.

## **7.3 Compensation Advocacy**

**Proposer – City of Queanbeyan**

**Endorsed – Central Southern DC**

That RSL NSW forward any matters affecting sub-Branch compensation advocates to the individual sub-Branches for voting, particularly with regard to the harmonisation of veteran entitlement legislation.

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

This action will obviate DVA claiming ESOs, and in particular RSL NSW (and therefore RSL NSW sub-Branches) has endorsed courses of advocacy related actions which may have unintended consequences to the detriment of veterans and their families, e.g. the existing non legal representation at VRB's regarding veterans, (the VRB is populated with lawyers), the reverse use of SOPs and benefit anomalies between veteran cohorts and the like.

### **Agenda Committee Comments**

The Agenda Committee noted that Government timeframes for consultation on veteran policy matters are not always conducive to sub-Branch meeting schedules. However, the Veteran Services and Policy Committee make every effort to ensure that the voice of members and compensation advocates are included in RSL feedback to Government.

## **8. CONSTITUTION MOTIONS**

### **8.1 Amend clause 9.9 (f)**

**Proposer – Forestville**

**Endorsed – Northern Beaches DC**

That clause 9.9 (f) of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to read:

9.9 To accept and continue to hold office as an Elected Director, a person must not:  
(f) become disqualified from managing corporations under the Corporations Act;

### Supporting Argument as submitted

The RSL NSW President and elected directors are subject to elections this year (see RSL NSW Circular 40/23). There is a possibility that members from the NBDC sub-Branches may apply for election as an Elected Director. Forestville sub-Branch has identified, by way of the Young Veterans Committee, that the criteria for election as an Elected Director in the RSL Constitution is inconsistent with current ASIC guidance.

Clause 9.9 of the RSL NSW Constitution currently reads:

"To accept and continue to hold office as an Elected Director, a person must not:

(f) be bankrupt, insolvent **or have ever been convicted of an indictable offence** [my bold];"

However, ASIC makes the following statement:

*"The law does not allow you to be an officeholder or manage a company (without court consent) if:*

- you are currently bankrupt,*
- you are still subject to a personal insolvency agreement or composition under the Bankruptcy Act 1966, or*
- have been convicted of offences like fraud or breaching your duties as an officeholder.*

*If you have been convicted of an offence committed against the corporation's interests, under the Corporations Act 2001 or for an offence involving dishonesty, you cannot manage a company or be an officeholder within five years of your conviction.*

*Similarly, if you have been imprisoned for an offence as mentioned above, you cannot manage a company within five years after your release from prison."*

In short, the indictable offence provision is inconsistent with the current ASIC and *Corporations Act 2001* guidance for director eligibility. Those applying for a directorship would be eligible after five years post-conviction or five years after release from prison.

The relevant section of the Act outlines that a person is disqualified from managing a company if they have been convicted of an indictable offence and stipulates that the period of disqualification lasts for five years after the day on which they are convicted, if the person does not serve a term of imprisonment or five years after the day on which they are released from prison if the person serves a term of imprisonment, as opposed to "has ever been".

### 8.2 Amend clause 15.9

**Proposer – Alstonville**

**Endorsed – Far North Coast DC**

That clause 15.9 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to read:

15.9 The sub-Branch President and any Vice-Presidents must be active Service Members, and all other sub-Branch Executives and Committee must be active Service Members, Affiliate Members or Auxiliary Members attached to the sub-Branch. All positions are to be nominated and elected by the members attached to that sub-Branch in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures set out from time to time."

### Supporting Argument as submitted

As we all know, recruiting new members is difficult, but with an active and inclusive Auxiliary, a fresh cadre of enthusiastic volunteers could be at hand. If we upgrade Auxiliaries to be a part of the sub-Branch, not just a fundraising arm, then we stand a better chance of surviving until the younger veterans mature and become involved. This is a way to weather the storm, and to bring FUN back to being in a sub-Branch.

If you pass this motion, it will allow new blood and ideas to come into a sub-Branch, with a Secretary, Treasurer or committee who want to help!

It will not allow Auxiliaries to 'take over' the League and allows the proper use of Affiliate Membership as a reward for exemplary service to the League of sub-Branch.

### 8.3 Amend 16.3

#### Proposer – RSL NSW Board

That clause 16.3 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to read:

16.3 A sub-Branch Executive may not be appointed to hold the position of, and act as a Trustee.

#### Supporting Argument

The current clause 16.3 allows any member of the sub-Branch Executive to also hold the position of sub-Branch Trustee.

16.3 Any sub-Branch Executive may be appointed to hold the position of, and act as a Trustee.

The sub-Branch Executives have the power to manage control and direct the affairs and conduct of the sub-Branch.

The Trustees hold the sub-Branch property on trust for the sub-Branch for the express purpose of pursuing the Charitable purpose and must act at all times in the best interests of the sub-Branch.

The separation of the roles of the sub-Branch Executives from the Trustees provides a check and balance against the duties of the other.

The concentration of the powers and duties of these roles into the same members of the sub-Branch puts the assets of the sub-Branch at risk. If a sub-Branch does not have enough members willing and able to fill the separate roles of the Executives and the Trustees, then the sub-Branch can appoint RSL Custodian as a Trustee.

### 8.4 Insert new clause 21.3

#### Proposer – Five Dock

#### Endorsed – Western Metropolitan DC

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by inserting the following clause: -

*“21.3 All policies and Standard Operating Procedures are to be within the scope specified in clause 2.1 and APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION.”*

And that subsequent clauses be renumbered.

#### Supporting Argument

The production of recent policies, seem to be outside the scope specified in the Constitution and could lead, confusingly, to sub-Branches and District Councils invoking Clause 21.4.

This amendment is intended to promote the integrity of the Constitution by more specifically determining the appropriate use of “Policies” by the members at Congress.

## 8.5 Amend Appendix A

**Proposer – Five Dock**

**Endorsed – Western Metropolitan DC**

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended at APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION.

### **“Policies and Standard Operating Procedures”**

By deleting “and Standard Operating Procedures” and by deleting “and/or procedures” so that it reads:

**“Policies** means policies issued by the Board from time to time applicable to sub-Branches.”

### **Supporting Argument**

Standard Operating Procedures are defined separately and more appropriately in this Appendix A. The two definitions are incompatible.

## 8.6 Amend Appendix B items 1-18

**Proposer – Lower North Coast DC**

That the RSL NSW Constitution, Appendix B - Membership be amended by:

1. Removing clauses 1 through to 6 (Application for membership) and referring those clauses to the DPC for consideration in SOP 2 - Membership.
2. Moving clauses 7 and 8 so that they are under the heading ‘Discretionary criteria’;
3. Moving the section ‘Membership Eligibility’ so that it is the first section of the Appendix and appears ahead of the section ‘Discretionary criteria’ and ‘Membership Fees and renewal’; and
4. Renumbering all clauses of the Appendix accordingly.

### **Supporting Argument as submitted**

- (a) The constitution sets out principles of governance of our league and should not be bogged down with the machinery of administration or operating procedures.
- (b) The new online membership application process is not catered for in the current version of the Appendix.
- (c) SOP 2 – Membership can more easily be amended to suit changes in the membership application procedures.

## 8.7 Amend Appendix B item 13 (a) – (c)

**Proposer – Huskisson**

**Endorsed – Central Southern DC**

*That Appendix B item 13 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by:*

1. *deleting the current wording of item 13 (a) and replacing it with ‘Any person who is or was a member of the Australian Defence Force with at least one day’s service should be admitted as a Service Member’;*
2. *Deleting item 13 (b); and*
3. *Deleting item 13 (c).*

### **Supporting Argument**

A veteran is someone who has served in the Military, whether it is for one day or thirty years. As new membership is a priority for the League, by removing the six-month provision this may encourage more veterans to join the League.



## ANNEXURE B – ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**RSL**  
**NSW**

Respecting, supporting, and  
remembering our veterans  
and their families.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022/23 Financial Year

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# Introduction

The Returned & Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (RSL NSW) ABN: 78 368 138 161 is incorporated under an Act of NSW Parliament – RSL NSW Act 2018 (NSW) No. 48 (Act).

RSL NSW is a charity, the purpose of which is to respect, support and remember veterans and their families. It performs its work with a commitment to good governance, accountability to members and transparency.

In the 2022/23 Financial Year, sub-Branches provided countless hours of volunteer support to veterans and their families in NSW. In addition, RSL NSW sub-Branches and other donors, provided over \$3.1 million to enable its partner charity and related entity RSL LifeCare to:

- Provide \$682,516 in financial assistance, supporting essential services for veterans and their families.
- Provide \$397,000 in disaster assistance.
- Assist 341 veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Provided 5,128 nights of accommodation.
- Help 816 veterans to lodge 4,460 DVA claims.
- Facilitated 220 veterans or partners receiving assistance from the RSL Veterans' Employment Program and training opportunities.
- Lodge 207 new VRB appeals, complete 291 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions and represent 37 full VRB Board Hearings.
- Guide 84 veterans through horse handling and riding courses.

As at 30 June 2023 RSL NSW had 315 sub-Branches throughout NSW and had 27,544 members.

Aside from its sub-Branches, the RSL NSW Family in 2022/2023 included:

- Anzac House Trust
- RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (known as AFOF)
- RSL Custodian Pty Ltd
- RSL LifeCare
- RSL NSW Auxiliaries
- RSL Youth Clubs
- RSL Day Clubs

More information can be found on the RSL NSW website - [www.rslnsw.org.au](http://www.rslnsw.org.au).

# President's Report

**Ray James** OAM, GAICD, JP

I am delighted to present the Annual Report for RSL NSW for the fiscal year 2022/23. It is with immense pride and gratitude that I share our achievements, challenges, and the strides we have taken to serve our veterans, their families, and the wider community.

**Executive Summary:** The past year has been one of transformation and growth for RSL NSW as we continue to implement the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026. We have witnessed significant accomplishments and continued our commitment to upholding the values and principles that define the Returned and Services League of Australia. As a testament to the dedication of our dedicated member volunteers and ANZAC House staff, we have effectively managed the impact of the ongoing global events while advancing our core mission.

## **Key Achievements:**

**Support Services for Veterans:** RSL NSW sub-Branches have donated \$3.1m to RSL LifeCare in response to an increased demand for free services and support. Our donation has assisted the opening and ongoing operation of Veteran Wellbeing Centres in Nowra, Wagga Wagga, and Newcastle. The Australian Government has awarded grants to RSL LifeCare and RSL NSW to develop business cases for Veterans' and Families' Hubs in the Hunter, Tweed, and Queanbeyan. Our members continue to volunteer their time to connect veterans and their families to support and services, and foster mateship and camaraderie including facilitating grass-roots events as a part of the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program.

RSL NSW has been at the centre of the League's response to the work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This has included drafting multiple submissions, daily summaries of Public Hearing blocks, engagement activities with Royal Commission officials, and assisting to establish the National Forum for Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) in an effort to establish a peak body for the ESO sector. The RSL NSW Royal Commission has referred more than 50 veterans and their families to assistance in providing submissions.

**Advocacy and Legislation:** The RSL has been at the forefront of advocating for veterans' rights and wellbeing. Together with RSL Australia and other State Branches, RSL NSW established the Ex-Service Organisation Forum to address the emerging outcomes of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and continues to collaborate with other ex-service organisations and government bodies, we have successfully lobbied for demand-driven funding to support veterans' wellbeing, legislative reform for the veterans' entitlements scheme and improvements in claims administration, and improved access for veterans to health services.

**Community Outreach:** The RSL has continued its efforts to strengthen ties with the wider community. We have actively engaged in various major events and local initiatives, including commemorations, school programs, and community events, to foster a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by our veterans and promote the spirit of mateship. Our members report record attendance at Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day commemorations, which reassures me that Australians are committed to recognising the service and sacrifices that veterans have made to protect their freedom.

# President's Report (cont)

**Ray James** OAM, GAICD, JP

**Transformation:** Implementation of the Strategic Plan has continued at a great pace, with parts of the program finishing or being integrated into business-as-usual activities at ANZAC House. Some of the key successes include the state-wide rollout of governance and compliance training for all sub-Branch office bearers, successful pilots for the use of the RSL LifeCare Veterans Services Customer Relationship Management system for RSL NSW volunteer advocates and for the District Support Officer role, successful Marketing and Communications and Member Recruitment strategies (resulting in a large uptick in new and younger members) and improvements to the RSL NSW website, sub-Branch Portal.

## **Challenges Faced:**

**Changing Demographics:** As the demographic landscape of veterans evolves, we have faced the challenge of catering to the unique needs of newer generations. To address this, we have actively sought input from younger veterans, including the Young Veterans Committee, to ensure our programs remain relevant and inclusive. This year, the average age of our membership is now 71 and the average age of new service members has fallen to 56.

**Funding support:** After extensive negotiations with our members and particularly the District Presidents' Council, RSL NSW has established the Veteran Support Fund. RSL NSW sub-Branches will nominate initiatives that meet our charitable purpose to receive state-wide funding, and, in turn, the League will receive recognition for the work that it does to support veterans and their families.

## **Future Outlook:**

As the League in NSW moves forward, it remains dedicated to the cause of our veterans and committed to supporting them through every phase of their lives. The year ahead will see us continue to advocate for legislative improvements and foster stronger connections within the community.

Moreover, RSL NSW will invest in training and professional development for our staff and volunteers, ensuring that our organisation remains at the forefront of veteran support services.

This will be my last Annual Report as I retire from my role as President. I extend my deepest appreciation to all our members, volunteers, staff, our partner charity RSL LifeCare, and the wider community for their unwavering support in making this year a resounding success. Our achievements would not have been possible without your tireless dedication and commitment.

As a dedicated member, I am committed to working with my fellow volunteers to continue to honour the legacy of our veterans and embrace the future with a determination to create a stronger League for the future.

Lest We Forget.

# Chair's Report

**Sophie Ray** FAICD (GDLS, BA (Hons) / LLB (Hons)),

As I look back on the 2022/23 financial year, I am pleased that the renewal within RSL NSW has reached a point where the Board can now focus on its strategic oversight role. This reflects the hard work and success of the ANZAC House staff and our members bringing our Strategic Plan to fruition and embedding the new processes, procedures, and culture in the day-to-day activities of the League. While there is still a way to go, it is heartening that this Board will hand over to the next President, Board, and CEO with such strong frameworks in place.

The Board again met bi-monthly for alternate in-person and online full-day meetings. In March, the Board came together for a strategy session with the RSL NSW Executive Leadership Team, where we reviewed the progress of the Strategic Plan initiatives and set priorities for the remainder of the calendar year. In between Board meetings, the Directors attended Board Committee meetings, held joint meetings with the District President's Council, met with the Young Veterans' Committee, attended Joint Working Group meetings with RSL LifeCare, and represented RSL NSW at commemorations, in meetings with both levels of government and other ESOs, and in many conversations within sub-Branched and at District Council meetings. The Board thanks all RSL NSW members for their engagement and commitment, and particularly thanks all the volunteers who take on leadership roles within sub-Branched, Districts, and Board Committees.

The Board has also continued to work closely with the Board of RSL LifeCare to ensure that the objectives of the two organisations are aligned. In November, the RSL NSW Board approved the appointment of Mr Ewen Crouch AM as the Chair of RSL LifeCare Board. In March, the RSL LifeCare CEO presented the RSL LifeCare Strategic Plan, and we had some useful discussions about collaboration between the two organisations.

As we move into the period of three yearly Board elections, the Board looks toward the next chapter in the RSL NSW story. At Congress, we will farewell our President, Ray James OAM, who has come to the end of his term on the Board, several Directors, and our CEO, Jon Black. I will have more to say about their contribution at that time but suffice it to say that it is in no small part because of their enormous and unstinting efforts that RSL NSW is now in a sounder financial, governance, and cultural position than it has been for many years. I am grateful to Ray, Jon, and our directors for their hard work, passion for the organisation, and leadership in the face of significant challenges.

On behalf of the Board, I also thank the ANZAC House team, whose dedication to the organisation and supporting veterans goes well above and beyond what should be expected, and often goes unnoticed. And finally, on behalf of the Board, I thank every member of the RSL NSW community, including families. RSL NSW is dedicated to supporting you, but without your involvement, commitment, and energy, the League in NSW would not exist. I look forward to continuing to work with you, the new Board, President, and CEO, to build on the strong foundations that we have, collectively, put in place for the future of RSL NSW and to support all veterans and their families throughout NSW.

# CEO's Report

**Jonathan (Jon) Black** CSC, GAICD

After four years, despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19, members of the RSL in NSW have responded to the challenge - adapt and change to be strong and relevant for younger generations of veterans, and their families.

By respecting the past, and focussing on the foundations of the RSL's heritage, particularly the importance of mateship, commemoration, and being the voice for veterans, the RSL in NSW has proven it can change to be as relevant now as it was when established.

While the underlying principles of voluntary military service, and human impacts from combat and training are consistent since our ANZAC ancestors, Australia's society has evolved and changed, and thanks to historical interventions by the RSL and organisations like the Vietnam Veterans Association, government responses to support those impacted by service have evolved and improved. However, while this is positive, there is no doubt, as has been uncovered by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, there is immense value in the foundation purpose and principles of the RSL, particularly for mateship or camaraderie, a strong voice, and access to support services.

The RSL NSW Strategic Plan, through the consultative process to establish it, is the members' plan to achieve the change required to make the RSL strong and relevant for the future. The quarterly transparent reporting on its implementation has enabled the League to gather momentum in achieving the Plan's vision, and in doing so will make the RSL in NSW the premier member-based veteran's charity of veterans supporting veterans and their families.

By asking the RSL NSW sub-Branches to work as one, the Plan has challenged decades of limited internal cooperation, to recognise and harness the benefits of combining the collective volunteer and financial resources of the League to achieve its charitable purpose, and vision for the future. The Strategic Plan recognises today's society is so interconnected compared to the past. It also recognises that the general membership had lost confidence in the State-level leadership after the painful judicial inquiry, and trust had to be rebuilt.

Trust and the other RSL NSW values underpin the Strategic Plan, and through an effort to exert transparency and consultative processes, ANZAC House and the Board have been able to rebuild that trust and demonstrate their value by delivering on the Plan.

At its halfway point we can report substantial successes stemming from the implementation of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan. In FY22/23, RSL NSW welcomed 3,075 new members, with total membership sitting at 27,544. In 2022, RSL NSW membership rose by 12.89%; the first increase in 40 years. RSL NSW sub-Branches have embraced the Sport & Recreation Program and are facilitating family-friendly events that foster mateship and camaraderie, across NSW.

The implementation of the new SOP1 and Veteran Support Fund is ensuring that the League in NSW is being recognised for supporting the delivery of services and support to veterans and their families. Governance and Compliance training is now available for all sub-Branch Officer Bearers, strengthening the grassroots structures that underpin our organisation. The Veterans Catalogue pilot had a successful first year and will now move to a new phase to ensure a catalogue is ready and available for use by veterans and their families across Australia.

## CEO's Report (cont.)

**Jonathan (Jon) Black** CSC, GAICD

The hard work of the Strategic Plan is not finished, and the coming years will see several key tasks come to fruition. A pilot training program has begun for Wellbeing Support Officers (WSOs), with the end goal being to have a WSO in every sub-Branch by 2026. Working with RSL LifeCare Veteran Services, RSL NSW will support and uplift its invaluable network of claims and wellbeing advocates, allowing them to provide the best possible services to veterans and their families. Improvements to the administration of RSL NSW will continue to progress, including stronger reporting processes, governance procedures, and commitment to our values and the RSL NSW Code of Conduct.

The RSL has a proud history of advocating for the health and wellbeing of its members, veterans, and their families. RSL NSW pursues this advocacy work doggedly, through the work of Veterans Services and Policy Committee (VSPC) and collaborating with the RSL nationally and other ex-service organisations (ESOs). In this year's Federal Government's Budget alone, RSL saw the successful results of its advocacy with improvements in veterans' access to health care, reform underway of veterans' entitlements legislation, and the provision of demand-driven funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to meet the wellbeing needs of veterans. Further improvements to the provision of claims and wellbeing advocacy, and DVA's support of volunteer advocates, are a policy priority.

RSL NSW's extensive collaboration with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has set a strong foundation for responding to the final recommendations of the Royal Commission's Final Report, due in June 2024. RSL NSW will advocate loudly and consistently for the recommendations of this report to be implemented by the Government, and to enact them where they relate to the organisation itself.

This will be my last report as I retire later this year. I sincerely thank the team at ANZAC House, a truly amazing team; the NSW State President, Board Chair and other Directors of the Board, and the hardworking volunteers across the State who have been champions of the change they want to see, especially our sub-Branch Presidents and the District Presidents' Council. It's astonishing what can be achieved to support veterans and their families through working together.

I wish the League continued success and ask you to find the courage to complete the implementation of our Strategic Plan. I look forward to monitoring progress as a proud member of RSL NSW.



## How RSL NSW is delivering on its charitable purpose

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Providing assistance, care and relief for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families who are suffering from physical or mental health, social disadvantage and isolation, distress, poverty, homelessness or destitution including without limitation those who are elderly.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSL NSW member volunteer hours: 450,000+</li> <li>• DVA claim advocacy services volunteer hours: 100,000+</li> <li>• DVA compensation claim services volunteer hours: 85,000+</li> <li>• Wellbeing advocacy services volunteer hours: 15,000+</li> <li>• RSL NSW Liaison Officer at National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare: more than 120 support cases</li> <li>• Advocacy of veteran issues through Veteran Services and Policy Committee, NVAC, ESORT, and DC Consultative Forum.</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocated for increase in DVA fee schedules</li> <li>• Push for all Reservists to be covered by non-liability healthcare provisions</li> <li>• Advocated for streamlining of veterans' entitlements legislation</li> <li>• Advocating for reform of veterans' advocacy, including additional advocate mentors under ATDP</li> </ul> |
| <p>Providing support and assistance for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families including without limitation to obtain compensation, benefits and assistance to which they are entitled and in relation to all aspects of transitioning from military service to civilian life, particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service.</p> | <p>RSL NSW sub-Branches donated \$3.1 million to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services to deliver the following services and support to veterans and their families during FY22/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided \$682,516 in financial assistance including \$397,000 in disaster assistance</li> <li>• Assisted 341 veterans experiencing homelessness</li> <li>• Provided 5,128 nights of accommodation</li> <li>• Helped 816 veterans to lodge 4,460 DVA claims</li> <li>• Facilitated 220 veterans or partners receiving assistance from the RSL Veterans' Employment Program and training opportunities</li> </ul>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodged 207 new VRB appeals, complete 291 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions and represent 37 full VRB Board Hearings</li> <li>• Guided 84 veterans through horse handling and riding courses</li> <li>• RSL Auxiliaries fundraising activities to support veterans and their families</li> <li>• RSL Auxiliaries 'Thank you for Your Service Quilts' to recognise service</li> </ul>   |
| Providing validation of service and sacrifice by commemorating those who have served and preserving the memory of those who have suffered and died.  | <p>ANZAC House provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 services supported with Cenotaph attendants</li> <li>• 7 commemorations conducted directly or indirectly by ANZAC House</li> </ul> <p>Coordination and implementation of state-wide commemorations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANZAC Day</li> <li>• Remembrance Day</li> <li>• Vietnam Veterans' Day</li> <li>• Victory in the Pacific Day</li> <li>• Battle for Australia</li> <li>• RSL &amp; Schools Remember ANZAC</li> <li>• Indigenous Veterans Service</li> </ul> <p>RSL NSW representation on the State War Memorial Fund</p>            |
| Promoting and facilitating the prevention of social isolation as a cause of veteran ill health by fostering and enabling community engagement, social connection and camaraderie by and between former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face meetings and social activities for veterans and their families at 315 sub-Branched and Chapters across NSW</li> <li>• Wellbeing and welfare checks conducted by RSL NSW members</li> <li>• Establishment of RSL NSW Liaison Officer at the National Centre for Veterans Healthcare, in collaboration with local sub-Branched</li> <li>• Implementation of the RSL NSW Sport &amp; Recreation Program</li> <li>• Attendance at Australian Defence Force Transition Seminars</li> <li>• Over 34 RSL Day Clubs facilitating social and wellbeing support to veterans and their families</li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Doing all other things necessary, ancillary, or incidental to pursuing and implementing its benevolent charitable purpose including without limitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishing, maintaining and regulating the operation of RSL NSW sub-Branches in New South Wales;</li> <li>researching, promoting, and publicly advocating for the interests of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families on matters of public policy;</li> <li>establishing and maintaining literary, social, educational, and benevolent activities for the benefit, promotion and advancement of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service; and</li> <li>promoting the defence of the Commonwealth of Australia and guarding the good name, interests and standing of serving members of the Australian Defence Force.</li> </ol> | <p>RSL NSW supports the operation of 315 RSL sub-Branches and Chapters across NSW including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>121 cases of sub-Branches assisted with governance issues, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 transitions to Chapters</li> <li>4 closures</li> <li>30 AIS compliance</li> <li>55 SBA support</li> <li>25 Budget support</li> <li>extra support provided through 3 sub-Branch admin seminars, reaching over 50 sub-Branches</li> </ul> </li> <li>64 sub-Branches supported through the Support and Assistance Fund (total of \$193,082) (<i>excluding Sport &amp; Assistance paid through Support &amp; Assistance Fund</i>)</li> <li>7,249 Support correspondence received from sub-Branches and District Councils</li> <li>3,462 calls YTD to the RSL NSW Support Line (including external)</li> <li>Processed 3,075 new members including 2,119 Service members, 531 Affiliate members and 425 Auxiliary members</li> <li>Auspice 4 grants for 12 sub-Branches including BEST, Stronger Communities Programme, Saluting Their Services and NSW Regional grant</li> <li>84 Trust Deeds were updated and 151 sub-Branches were assisted with their Trust Deeds</li> <li>56 long service and other certificates processed and awarded</li> <li>4 property transactions processed</li> <li>43 Board, Committee, and Steering Committee meetings conducted</li> <li>Continue the RSL NSW Royal Commission Office to support veterans in engagement with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Production of the RSL NSW membership magazine, including digital content, to promote the good name, interests and standing of serving members of the ADF</li><li>• Facilitation of quarterly webinars to provide services and support to veterans and their families</li><li>• Providing direct financial support to RSL sub-Branches through the RSL NSW sub-Branch Support &amp; Assistance Fund</li></ul> |
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# Governance Statement

RSL NSW is committed to a high standard of corporate governance to ensure the organisation achieves its stated objectives in ways that are transparent, accountable, and effective. Corporate governance arrangements are reviewed regularly by the Board.

The Board's conduct is governed by the RSL NSW Act 2018 (Act), the RSL NSW Constitution, and the Board Charter.

## Directors

The following were Directors of RSL NSW in the 2022/23 Financial Year:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Date Appointed</b>   |
|-------------------|---|
| Phillip Bridie    | April 2019 – December 2020<br>7 December 2020 (current term)                          |
| Phillip Chin      | September 2017 – December 2020<br>7 December 2020 (current term)                      |
| Stephen Graham    | 7 December 2020 (current term)  |
| Jason Hazell      | 22 August 2021 (current term)   |
| James Hungerford* | 11 June 2022 (current term)   |
| John Hutcheson    | April 2019 – December 2020<br>7 December 2020 (current term)                          |
| Ray James         | May 2014 – January 2017<br>May 2017 – December 2020<br>7 December 2020 (current term) |
| David McCann      | 7 December 2020 (current term)  |
| Sophie Ray*       | June 2019 – June 2022<br>11 June 2022 (current term)                                  |
| Louise Sullivan   | 22 August 2021 (current term)   |

*\*Independent Directors appointed pursuant to the RSL NSW Act 2018 (NSW)*

# Governance Statement (cont)

## Committees

The following Board Committees assisted the Board in the discharge of its duties:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Congress Agenda Committee
- Nomination, Remunerations and Performance Committee
- Selections Committee
- Young Veterans Committee
- Veteran Services and Policy Committee

Each Committee has a Charter that sets out its role, responsibilities, composition, and structure. The Charters are reviewed regularly by the Board. The Committees report to the Board at each Board meeting and minutes of meetings are provided to the Board.

## Conflicts of Interest

All Directors are bound by the conflicts requirements of the Act and the Constitution which guide compliance with all legal, statutory, policy and other obligations.

Directors are required to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest at the start of every Board meeting, at which time the Board determines an appropriate response which may require a Director to remove themselves from discussions, decisions or votes. In the case of staff, any actual or perceived conflict of interest must be declared to the Company Secretary and entered into the Register of Interests.

## Director's Expenses

A record of Director Expenditure for the financial year is available on the RSL NSW website.

## Board composition and renewal

The Board via its Nominations, Remuneration and Performance Committee reviews and evaluates its succession planning process on an ongoing basis to assist it to identify the skills and experience of serving Directors and to guide the recruitment of Independent Directors.

## Board performance review

The Board reviews its performance at the end of every Board meeting. The review includes:

- the conduct of the meeting and Director participation;
- the content, quality and sufficiency of Board papers; and
- whether the venue and facilities were suitable and conducive to an effective meeting.

## July 2022 – June 2023 Board and Committee Meeting Attendance

|                      | Board Meetings |          | Audit & Risk Committee |          | Congress Agenda Committee |          | Nominations Remuneration & Performance Committee |          | Selections Committee |          | Young Veterans Committee |          | Veteran Services & Policy Committee |          |
|----------------------|----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|--|----------|----------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Board Members</b> | Held           | Attended | Held                   | Attended | Held                      | Attended | Held   | Attended | Held                 | Attended | Held                     | Attended | Held                                | Attended |
| Phillip Bridie*      | 6              | 6        | 6                      | 6        | 1                         | 1        | -  | -        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | -                                   | -        |
| Phillip Chin         | 6              | 6        | -                      | -        | -                         | -        | 6  | 6        | -                    | -        | 5                        | 4        | -                                   | -        |
| Stephen Graham       | 6              | 5        | 6                      | 6        | -                         | -        | 6  | 6        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | -                                   | -        |
| Jason Hazell         | 6              | 6        | 6                      | 6        | -                         | -        | -  | -        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | -                                   | -        |
| James Hungerford     | 6              | 5        | -                      | -        | -                         | -        | -  | -        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | -                                   | -        |
| John Hutcheson*      | 6              | 6        | -                      | -        | -                         | -        | 6  | 6        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | 4                                   | 0        |
| Ray James            | 6              | 6        | 6                      | 2        | 1                         | 1        | -  | -        | 2                    | 2        | 5                        | 2        | 4                                   | 3        |
| David McCann         | 6              | 5        | -                      | -        | -                         | -        | -  | -        | 2                    | 2        | -                        | -        | 4                                   | 4        |
| Sophie Ray           | 6              | 5        | -                      | -        | 1                         | 1        | 6  | 6        | -                    | -        | 5                        | 4        | -                                   | -        |
| Louise Sullivan      | 6              | 6        | -                      | -        | 1                         | 1        | -  | -        | -                    | -        | -                        | -        | 4                                   | 4        |

### Independent Committee Members

|                  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anna-Leena Risku | - | - | 6 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Robert Oldfield  | - | - | 6 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Alan Barnes      | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Sandra Lambkin   | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| David Edmond     | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | - |

|                      | Board Meetings |   | Audit & Risk Committee |   | Congress Agenda Committee |   | Nominations Remuneration & Performance Committee |   | Selections Committee |   | Young Veterans Committee |   | Veteran Services & Policy Committee |   |
|----------------------|----------------|---|------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bronte Pollard       | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | -                        | - | 4                                   | 4 |
| Jonathan Tuckfield   | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | -                        | - | 4                                   | 3 |
| David Anderson       | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | -                        | - | 4                                   | 3 |
| Sarah Watson         | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | -                        | - | 4                                   | 3 |
| Colin Pickstone**    | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 5 | -                                   | - |
| Berdene Oxley-Boyd** | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 1 | -                                   | - |
| Kane Hall            | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 3 | -                                   | - |
| Russell Maddalena    | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 4 | -                                   | - |
| Steve Rana           | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 5 | -                                   | - |
| John Hopwood         | -              | - | -                      | - | -                         | - | -  | - | -                    | - | 5                        | 3 | -                                   | - |

\* Phillip Bridie joins Congress Agenda Committee - Aug 2022

\* John Hutcheson resigns from Congress Agenda Committee - Aug 2022

\*\* Colin Pickstone resigns from Young Veterans Committee - 2 June 2023

\*\* Berdene Oxley-Boyd resigns from Young Veterans Committee - 2 June 2023



**The Returned and Services League of Australia  
(New South Wales Branch)  
ABN 78 368 138 161**

Special purpose financial report for the year ended  
**30 June 2023**

## **The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**

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**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

|  |              | <b>2023</b>         | <b>2022</b>         |
|--|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>Notes</b> | <b>\$</b>           | <b>\$</b>           |
| Donations received                               |              | 5,062,203           | 4,280,011           |
| Management fees                                  |              | 62,263              | 46,876              |
| Fair value gain on investment properties         | 10           | 897,202             | 1,000,612           |
| Gain on sale of investment properties            |              | -                   | 5,258,127           |
| Grants   |              | 175,417             | 215,349             |
| Hotel revenue                                    | 4.1          | 8,100,732           | 3,881,907           |
| Interest income                                  |              | 464,449             | 59,689              |
| Membership fees and subscriptions                |              | -                   | 95,743              |
| Other income                                     | 4.2          | 987,913             | 925,604             |
| Rental income                                    |              | 130,626             | 87,350              |
| Sale of goods                                    |              | 35,528              | 33,832              |
| <b>Total revenue</b>                             |              | <b>15,916,333</b>   | <b>15,885,099</b>   |
| Administration expenses                          |              | (799,751)           | (763,728)           |
| Communications and publications                  |              | (283,312)           | (195,743)           |
| Cost of goods sold                               |              | (27,153)            | (29,695)            |
| Client support payments                          |              | -                   | (8,253)             |
| Depreciation expense                             | 8            | (420,178)           | (262,822)           |
| Amortisation expense                             | 9            | (83,674)            | (110,970)           |
| Donations made                                   | 23           | (2,873,282)         | (3,225,865)         |
| Employee benefits expense                        |              | (5,423,008)         | (4,182,660)         |
| Events   |              | (349,186)           | (290,773)           |
| Bad debts  |              | (115)               | -                   |
| Hotel related expenses                           |              | (1,648,958)         | (1,067,267)         |
| Interest paid - Lease Liability                  |              | (2,313)             | (1,731)             |
| Amortisation of Lease Asset in Use               | 18           | (9,531)             | (6,991)             |
| Loss on disposal of assets                       |              | (72,856)            | (50,191)            |
| Other employee related expenses                  |              | (326,731)           | (198,632)           |
| Other expenses                                   |              | (177,968)           | (64,529)            |
| Professional fees                                |              | (1,056,055)         | (1,084,083)         |
| Property expenses                                |              | (507,128)           | (142,484)           |
| RSL National fees                                |              | (383,526)           | (517,894)           |
| Director and President expenses                  |              | (45,950)            | (28,903)            |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                            |              | <b>(14,490,675)</b> | <b>(12,233,214)</b> |
| <b>Net surplus for the period</b>                |              | <b>1,425,658</b>    | <b>3,651,885</b>    |
| <b>Other comprehensive income</b>                |              |                     |                     |
| Increase in the fair value of land and buildings | 17           | 2,849,577           | 2,955,975           |
| Net change in fair value of financial assets     | 17           | 595,906             | (2,023,477)         |
| <b>Other comprehensive income for the period</b> |              | <b>3,445,483</b>    | <b>932,498</b>      |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b> |              | <b>4,871,141</b>    | <b>4,584,383</b>    |

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Statement of financial position**  
**As at 30 June 2023**

|                                      | Notes | 2023<br>\$         | 2022<br>\$         |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                        |       |                    |                    |
| <b>Current assets</b>                |       |                    |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 5.1   | 15,693,357         | 10,343,233         |
| Trade and other receivables          | 6     | 360,521            | 360,485            |
| Inventories                          |       | 44,049             | 42,334             |
| Other financial assets               | 7     | 3,000,000          | -                  |
| <b>Total current assets</b>          |       | <b>19,097,927</b>  | <b>10,746,052</b>  |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>            |       |                    |                    |
| Property, plant and equipment        | 8     | 65,607,099         | 63,176,305         |
| Intangible assets                    | 9     | 147,767            | 231,441            |
| Investment properties                | 10    | 23,805,512         | 22,908,310         |
| Financial assets                     | 11    | 13,888,720         | 12,174,016         |
| Right of Use Asset                   | 18    | 31,771             | 41,302             |
| Other financial assets               | 7     | 322,582            | 27,220             |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>      |       | <b>103,803,451</b> | <b>98,558,594</b>  |
| <b>Total assets</b>                  |       | <b>122,901,378</b> | <b>109,304,646</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and equity</b>        |       |                    |                    |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>           |       |                    |                    |
| Trade and other payables             | 13    | 5,209,225          | 4,200,925          |
| Specific purpose obligations         | 15    | 8,871,288          | -                  |
| Employee benefit liabilities         | 14    | 791,316            | 768,157            |
| Lease Liability                      | 18    | 9,261              | 8,715              |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>     |       | <b>14,881,090</b>  | <b>4,977,797</b>   |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>       |       |                    |                    |
| Employee benefit liabilities         | 14    | 30,572             | 18,508             |
| Specific purpose obligations         | 15    | 81,039             | 4,561,544          |
| Lease Liability                      | 18    | 23,929             | 33,190             |
| Deferred income                      | 16    | 9,900,000          | 6,600,000          |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b> |       | <b>10,035,540</b>  | <b>11,213,242</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>             |       | <b>24,916,630</b>  | <b>16,191,039</b>  |
| <b>Net assets</b>                    |       | <b>97,984,748</b>  | <b>93,113,607</b>  |
| <b>Equity</b>                        |       |                    |                    |
| Accumulated funds                    |       | 48,759,333         | 47,333,675         |
| Fair value reserve                   | 17    | 49,225,415         | 45,779,932         |
| <b>Total equity</b>                  |       | <b>97,984,748</b>  | <b>93,113,607</b>  |

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Statement of changes in equity**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

|  | <b>Accumulated<br/>funds</b> | <b>Fair value<br/>reserve</b> | <b>Total equity</b> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>                    | <b>\$</b>                     | <b>\$</b>           |
| <b>At 1 July 2021</b>                          | <b>43,681,790</b>            | <b>44,847,434</b>             | <b>88,529,224</b>   |
| Net surplus for the year                       | 3,651,885                    | -                             | 3,651,885           |
| Other comprehensive income (Note 17)           | -                            | 932,498                       | 932,498             |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> | <b>3,651,885</b>             | <b>932,498</b>                | <b>4,584,383</b>    |
| <b>At 30 June 2022</b>                         | <b>47,333,675</b>            | <b>45,779,932</b>             | <b>93,113,607</b>   |
| <b>At 1 July 2022</b>                          | <b>47,333,675</b>            | <b>45,779,932</b>             | <b>93,113,607</b>   |
| Net surplus for the year                       | 1,425,658                    | -                             | 1,425,658           |
| Other comprehensive income (Note 17)           | -                            | 3,445,483                     | 3,445,483           |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> | <b>1,425,658</b>             | <b>3,445,483</b>              | <b>4,871,141</b>    |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>                         | <b>48,759,333</b>            | <b>49,225,415</b>             | <b>97,984,748</b>   |

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

|   |              | <b>2023</b>        | <b>2022</b>       |
|---|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|   | <b>Notes</b> | <b>\$</b>          | <b>\$</b>         |
| <b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>          |              |                    |                   |
| Membership fees and employees subscriptions         |              | -                  | 95,743            |
| Payments to suppliers and employees                 |              | (10,081,121)       | (4,909,277)       |
| Receipts from accommodation charges                 |              | 8,185,936          | 3,953,606         |
| Grants received                                     |              | 175,417            | 215,349           |
| Donations received                                  |              | 5,297,412          | 4,694,383         |
| Receipts from other income                          |              | 341,272            | 357,276           |
| Receipts from sale of goods                         |              | 104,133            | 43,008            |
| Investment income                                   |              | 192,889            | 134,226           |
| Dividends received                                  |              | 426,288            | 88,994            |
| Interest received                                   |              | 378,750            | 41,940            |
| Donations paid                                      |              | (2,872,364)        | (3,177,514)       |
| Interest paid                                       |              | -                  | (22)              |
| Receipts for Special purpose funds                  |              | 4,379,399          | 4,472,306         |
| <b>Net cash from operating activities</b>           | <b>5.2</b>   | <b>6,528,011</b>   | <b>6,010,018</b>  |
| <b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>          |              |                    |                   |
| Deposit from sale of asset                          |              | 3,300,000          | 3,300,000         |
| Disposal of Investment Properties                   |              | -                  | 8,558,127         |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment           |              | (1,821)            | (99,528)          |
| Disposal of property, plant and equipment           |              | 427                | 400               |
| Purchase of financial instruments                   |              | (8,173,446)        | (19,126,910)      |
| Disposal of financial instruments                   |              | 3,707,981          | 9,207,588         |
| <b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b> |              | <b>(1,166,859)</b> | <b>1,839,677</b>  |
| <b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>          |              |                    |                   |
| Lease payment                                       |              | (11,028)           | (8,110)           |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>        |              | <b>(11,028)</b>    | <b>(8,110)</b>    |
| Cash at beginning of the period                     |              | 10,343,233         | 2,501,648         |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents           |              | 5,350,124          | 7,841,585         |
| <b>Cash and Cash equivalents at 30 June 2023</b>    | <b>5.1</b>   | <b>15,693,357</b>  | <b>10,343,233</b> |

*The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**1. Entity information**

The financial statements of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW") for the year ended 30 June 2023 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors on 21 September 2023.

RSL NSW is an incorporated body with limited liability, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Incorporation status was established by an Act of the Parliament of New South Wales. By virtue of its method of incorporation, RSL NSW is not a legal entity under the Corporations Act 2001.

The registered office and principal place of business of RSL NSW is ANZAC House, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

The principal activities of RSL NSW during the financial year were to provide for the well-being, care and commemoration of serving and ex-serving Defence Force personnel and their dependants and promote Government and Community awareness of current issues relevant to serving and ex-serving ADF personnel.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

**a) Basis of preparation**

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. This financial report does not include the assets, liabilities and financial performance of the RSL NSW sub-Branches or RSL LifeCare Ltd.

In the Board's opinion, RSL NSW is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The Board has determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the users.

The financial report has been prepared on a historical cost basis, except investment properties, land and buildings and financial assets that have been measured at fair value.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars (\$).

**Changes in accounting policies, new and amended standards and interpretations**

RSL NSW has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective. The impact of these new standards and interpretations, however, is not expected to have a material impact on RSL NSW's financial statements.

**b) AASB 16 Leases**

At inception of a new lease contract, RSL NSW will assess whether a contract is a lease contract. A contract is a lease contract if the contract gives the right to control the use of the underlying asset for a period of time in exchange for a rental payment. The lease term is the minimum number of periods (months/years) for which RSL NSW is contractually obligated to pay the lease rentals. Judgement is used to determine whether an extension option will be exercised at the end of the lease term.

For lease contracts with a lease term of 12 months or less, or where a lease is for a low value asset, Management elect to apply a recognition exemption and lease payments are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss statement.

**Measurement and recognition of Lease liability**

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease rental payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if the rate cannot be readily determined, RSL NSW's incremental borrowing rate. Generally RSL NSW uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is amortised over the period of the lease using the annualised rental payment.

**Measurement and recognition of Right of use asset**

A right of use asset is recognised and is initially recorded at the same value as the lease liability.

It is then recorded in the balance sheet as "Lease Right of Use Asset" and amortised over the lease term using the straight line method. After initial recognition, the Right of Use Asset is measured using the depreciated cost model.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**c) AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for Profit Entities**

Under AASB 15, a customer of RSL NSW is a party that has contracted with RSL NSW to obtain goods or services that are an output of RSL NSW's ordinary activities in exchange for consideration. The new revenue standard has a single model to deal with revenue from contracts with customers. Its core principle is that revenue should be recognised to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which RSL NSW expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

RSL NSW uses a 5 – step approach to revenue recognition and measurement as follows:

- Identify the contract with the customer
- Identify the separate performance obligations
- Determine the transaction price
- Allocate the transaction price to the separate performance obligations
- Recognise revenue when (or as) performance obligations are satisfied

RSL NSW applies AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities when RSL NSW enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset, principally to enable the organisation to further its charitable objectives. RSL NSW will recognise and measure the asset at fair value in accordance with other applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

RSL NSW follows the above conditions to recognise its rental income arising from leases on the investment properties over the lease term and includes this income as revenue in the statement of profit or loss. RSL NSW also follows the above conditions to recognise its grants and donation income when received.

**d) Current versus non-current classification**

RSL NSW presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification. An asset is current when it is:

- Expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading
- Expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**e) Fair value measurement**

RSL NSW measures financial instruments such as financial assets at fair value at each balance sheet date.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability, or
- In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability

The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by RSL NSW.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

RSL NSW uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 - Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable
- Level 3 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

**f) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position comprise cash on hand and at bank and short-term deposits with a maturity of three months or less, which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and short-term deposits, as defined above.

**g) Trade and Other receivables**

A receivable represents the entity's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due). Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less expected credit losses. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

For trade receivables, the entity applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses (ECL). Therefore, the entity does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

**h) Inventories**

Inventories comprise goods for resale and goods for distribution for nominal consideration as part of RSL NSW's activities.

**Goods for resale**

Inventories of goods for resale are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less any applicable selling expenses.

**Goods held for distribution**

Inventories of goods purchased and held for distribution are carried at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**i) Financial assets - initial recognition and subsequent measurement**

***Initial recognition and measurement***

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, and subsequently measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI).

***Subsequent measurement***

*For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified in two categories:*

- Financial assets at fair value through OCI with recycling of cumulative gains and losses (debt instruments)
- Financial assets designated at fair value through OCI with no recycling of cumulative gains and losses upon derecognition (equity instruments)

**Financial assets at fair value through OCI (debt instruments)**

RSL NSW measures debt instruments at fair value through OCI if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling, and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

For debt instruments at fair value through OCI, interest income, foreign exchange revaluation and impairment losses or reversals are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and computed in the same manner as for financial assets measured at amortised cost. The remaining fair value changes are recognised in OCI. Upon derecognition, the cumulative fair value change recognised in OCI is recycled to profit or loss.

RSL NSW's debt instruments at fair value through OCI includes investments in quoted debt instruments included under non-current financial assets.

**Financial assets designated at fair value through OCI (equity instruments)**

Upon initial recognition, RSL NSW elected to classify irrevocably its equity investments as equity instruments designated at fair value through OCI when they meet the definition of equity under IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation and are not held for trading. The classification is determined on an instrument-by-instrument basis.

Gains and losses on these financial assets are never recycled to profit or loss. Dividends are recognised as other income in the statement of profit or loss when the right of payment has been established, except when RSL NSW benefits from such proceeds as a recovery of part of the cost of the financial asset, in which case, such gains are recorded in OCI. Equity instruments designated at fair value through OCI are not subject to impairment assessment.

RSL NSW elected to classify irrevocably its listed and non-listed equity investments under this category

**j) Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, if any. Such cost includes the cost of replacing part of the plant and equipment if the recognition criteria are met. When significant parts of plant and equipment are required to be replaced at intervals, RSL NSW depreciates them separately based on their specific useful lives. All other repairs and maintenance costs are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as incurred.

***Land and buildings***

The land and building is measured at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised in asset revaluation reserve. On December 2020 RSL NSW entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its land and building Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price as the fair value for Hyde Park Inn and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2023.

A revaluation surplus is recorded in OCI and credited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity. However, to the extent that it reverses a revaluation deficit of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is recognised in profit or loss. A revaluation deficit is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, except to the extent that it offsets an existing surplus on the same asset recognised in the asset revaluation reserve.



**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**j) Property, plant and equipment (continued)**

***Land and buildings (continued)***

An annual transfer from the asset revaluation reserve to retained earnings is made for the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and depreciation based on the asset's original cost. Additionally, accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset. Upon disposal, any revaluation surplus relating to the particular asset being sold is transferred to retained earnings.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Plant and equipment    | 5%-33% |
| Leasehold improvements | 20%    |

An item of property, plant and equipment and any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of profit or loss when the asset is derecognised.

The residual values, useful lives and methods of depreciation of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each financial year end and adjusted prospectively, if appropriate.

**k) Intangibles**

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Internally generated intangibles, excluding capitalised development costs, are not capitalised and the related expenditure is reflected in profit or loss in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over the useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are considered to modify the amortisation period or method, as appropriate, and are treated as changes in accounting estimates. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the expense category that is consistent with the function of the intangible assets.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the intangibles, as follows:

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Computer Software | 20%-33% |
|-------------------|---------|

**l) Investment properties**

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value, which reflects market conditions at the reporting date. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are included in the statement of profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

**m) Impairment of non-financial assets**

RSL NSW assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, RSL NSW estimates the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or CGU's fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. The recoverable amount is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets. When the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**m) Impairment of non-financial assets (continued)**

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. In determining fair value less costs of disposal, recent market transactions are taken into account. If no such transactions can be identified, an appropriate valuation model is used. These calculations are corroborated by valuation multiples or other available fair value indicators.

Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as an expense.

An assessment is made at each reporting date to determine whether there is an indication that previously recognised impairment losses no longer exist or have decreased. If such indication exists, RSL NSW estimates the asset's or CGU's recoverable amount. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount, nor exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case, the reversal is treated as a revaluation increase.

**n) Trade and other payables**

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to RSL NSW prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when RSL NSW becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

**o) Employee benefit liabilities**  
***Wages and salaries***

Liabilities for wages and salaries which are expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

***Long service leave and annual leave***

RSL NSW does not expect its long service leave or annual leave benefits to be settled wholly within 12 months of each reporting date. RSL NSW recognises a liability for long service leave and annual leave measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

**p) Taxes**

RSL NSW is a not-for-profit organisation outlined in its constitution and registered with ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) and as such, is exempt from income tax.

***Goods and services tax (GST)***

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except:

- When the GST incurred on a sale or purchase of assets or services is not payable to or recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the revenue or the expense item or as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset, as applicable; and
- When receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as part of operating cash flows.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**q) Specific purpose obligations**

Specific purpose obligations represent funds received from individuals, estates or other parties for various purposes including: scholarships or youth sporting and other social activities. Such funds are held by RSL NSW to spend at its discretion for the purpose for which they originated. RSL NSW recognises the obligation to expend these funds as a provision, in some cases also maintaining a separate bank account. When the particular purpose for which the funds were contributed is completed, the obligation is extinguished, or RSL NSW decides that the funds can no longer be expended for the originally established purpose any surplus funds are recognised as revenue. In addition, RSL NSW holds funds on behalf of other parties for specific memorials or commemorations purposes. These funds are held as an asset and a corresponding liability.

**3. Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of RSL NSW's financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities, the accompanying disclosures and, the disclosure of contingent liabilities. Uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of affected assets or liabilities in future periods.

***Estimates and assumptions***

RSL NSW makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates by definition seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of asset and liabilities.

***Fair value measurement of financial assets***

When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the statement of financial position cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets, their fair value is measured using valuation techniques including the discounted cash flow (DCF) model. The inputs to these models are taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgement is required in establishing fair values. Judgements include considerations of inputs such as liquidity risk, credit risk and volatility. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

***Fair value measurement of land and buildings***

RSL NSW has entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its land and building, Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price from this deed as the fair value and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2023. The market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date has been used, to determine the present value of Hyde Park Inn (Note 8).

***Fair value measurement of investment properties***

RSL NSW has entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its investment property, 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price from this deed as the fair value and has used the discounted present value method to revalue its investment property as at 30 June 2023. The market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date has been used, to determine the present value of 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (Note 10).

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**4. Revenue**

**4.1 Hotel revenue**

|                  | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| Accommodation    | 8,073,172        | 3,872,035        |
| Ancillary income | 27,560           | 9,872            |
|                  | <b>8,100,732</b> | <b>3,881,907</b> |

**Geographical markets**

|  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Australia  | 8,100,732        | 3,881,907        |
| <b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b> | <b>8,100,732</b> | <b>3,881,907</b> |

**Timing of revenue recognition**

|  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Goods transferred at a point in time               | 27,560           | 9,872            |
| Services transferred over time                     | 8,073,172        | 3,872,035        |
| <b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b> | <b>8,100,732</b> | <b>3,881,907</b> |

**4.2 Other income**

|  | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b>      |
| Closed sub-Branches                      | 11,638         | -              |
| Other income*                            | 314,778        | 243,862        |
| Jobsaver subsidy                         | -              | 155,357        |
| Investment income                        | 42,654         | 10,770         |
| Support and assistance fund contribution | 235,208        | 414,373        |
| Dividends received                       | 383,635        | 101,242        |
|  | <b>987,913</b> | <b>925,604</b> |

\*This includes income received from the Legion's merger, postage reimbursement from sub-Branches and business sponsorship from City of Newcastle for Congress.

**5. Cash and cash equivalents**

**5.1. Cash and cash equivalents**

|                            | <b>2023</b>       | <b>2022</b>       |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                            | <b>\$</b>         | <b>\$</b>         |
| Cash at bank and on hand** | 15,693,357        | 10,343,233        |
| Short-term deposits        | -                 | -                 |
|                            | <b>15,693,357</b> | <b>10,343,233</b> |

\*\*This includes \$8.87m quarantined funds held on behalf of sub-Branches in 2023. In 2022 sub-Branch quarantined funds was \$4.48m (as disclosed in Note 15).

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the above.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**5.2. Cash and cash equivalents**

|  | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| <b>Cash flow reconciliation</b>  |                  |                  |
| Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) to net cash flows from/(used in) operations: |                  |                  |
| <b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>                                      | 1,425,658        | 3,651,885        |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>  |                  |                  |
| Depreciation and amortisation  | 503,852          | 373,792          |
| Written-off of intangible assets   | -                | 17,316           |
| (Gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment                             | -                | (400)            |
| Loss on sale of debt instrument  | 72,856           | 50,191           |
| Gain on disposal of right-of-use assets  | -                | (3,449)          |
| (Gain)/loss on sale of investment properties                                     | -                | (5,258,127)      |
| Amortisation and interest - lease liability                                      | 11,845           | 8,722            |
| Revaluation (gain)/loss on investment properties                                 | (897,203)        | (1,000,612)      |
| Investment Income - Other  | -                | (10,770)         |
| Accrued dividend income  | -                | (12,248)         |
| Accrued interest income  | (21,551)         | (17,749)         |
| <b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>  |                  |                  |
| (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables                               | (36)             | 46,038           |
| (Increase)/decrease in inventories   | (1,716)          | 9,575            |
| Increase in trade and other payables   | 9,879,588        | 3,599,491        |
| Increase in employee benefits  | 35,223           | 84,054           |
| (Decrease)/increase in special purpose obligations                               | (4,480,505)      | 4,472,308        |
| <b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>                        | <b>6,528,011</b> | <b>6,010,018</b> |

**6. Trade and other receivables**

|                                | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b>      |
| <b>Current</b>                 |                |                |
| Trade debtors                  | 8,330          | 93,534         |
| Sundry debtors                 | 34,917         | 38,935         |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 317,274        | 228,016        |
|                                | <b>360,521</b> | <b>360,485</b> |

**7. Other financial assets**

|                            | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>   |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                            | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>     |
| Term Deposit - current     | 3,000,000        | -             |
|                            | <b>3,000,000</b> | <b>-</b>      |
| Term Deposit - non-current | 322,582          | 27,220        |
|                            | <b>322,582</b>   | <b>27,220</b> |

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**8. Property, plant and equipment**

|                             | Land and<br>buildings | Plant and<br>equipment | Leasehold<br>improvements | Total             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|                             | \$                    | \$                     | \$                        | \$                |
| <b>Cost</b>                 |                       |                        |                           |                   |
| <b>At 1 July 2022</b>       | 63,482,638            | 429,976                | 15,598                    | 63,928,212        |
| Additions                   | -                     | 1,821                  | -                         | 1,821             |
| Disposals                   | -                     | (118,471)              | -                         | (118,471)         |
| Revaluation                 | 2,849,577             | -                      | -                         | 2,849,577         |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>      | <b>66,332,215</b>     | <b>313,326</b>         | <b>15,598</b>             | <b>66,661,139</b> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>         |                       |                        |                           |                   |
| <b>At 1 July 2022</b>       | 401,295               | 347,278                | 3,333                     | 751,907           |
| Depreciation charge for the | 379,000               | 37,404                 | 3,774                     | 420,178           |
| Disposals                   | -                     | (118,044)              | -                         | (118,045)         |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>      | <b>780,296</b>        | <b>266,638</b>         | <b>7,107</b>              | <b>1,054,040</b>  |
| <b>Net book value</b>       |                       |                        |                           |                   |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>      | <b>65,551,919</b>     | <b>46,688</b>          | <b>8,491</b>              | <b>65,607,099</b> |
| <b>At 30 June 2022</b>      | <b>63,081,343</b>     | <b>82,698</b>          | <b>12,265</b>             | <b>63,176,305</b> |

**Additions**

Additions relate to the LED Smart TV for the Board room at 175 Pitt Street, Sydney.

**Hyde Park Inn**

In December 2020, RSL NSW entered into a Put and Call Option (PCO) Deed for the the sale of Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street with Central Element. The PCO will allow the purchaser to exercise a call option during the call option period (between 30-48 months from the date of the Deed) to buy Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street. If the call option is not exercised by Central Element, RSL NSW can exercise a put option during the put option period (15 business days after the call option expiry date) to sell both properties and make the agreement binding for both parties. The future Minimum Purchase Price has been agreed at \$95m. RSL NSW has used this \$95m plus a forecast uplift of \$11m as a future fair value for both Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street as at 30 June 2023. A discount rate of 10.18% has been selected which is the market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date to determine the present value of the properties. This has resulted in a revaluation gain of \$2.8m for Hyde Park Inn which has been credited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**9. Intangible Assets**

|                                       | <b>Intangible<br/>Assets</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|                                       | <b>\$</b>                    | <b>\$</b>      |
| <b>Cost</b>                           |                              |                |
| <b>At 1 July 2022</b>                 | 776,190                      | 776,190        |
| Additions                             | -                            | -              |
| Disposals                             | -                            | -              |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>                | <b>776,190</b>               | <b>776,190</b> |
| <b>Amortisation</b>                   |                              |                |
| <b>At 1 July 2022</b>                 | 544,749                      | 544,749        |
| Amortisation charge for the period    | 83,674                       | 83,674         |
| Disposals                             | -                            | -              |
| <b>At 30 June 2023</b>                | <b>628,423</b>               | <b>628,423</b> |
|                                       | -                            | -              |
| <b>Net book value at 30 June 2023</b> | <b>147,767</b>               | <b>147,767</b> |
|                                       | -                            | -              |
| <b>Net book value at 30 June 2022</b> | <b>231,441</b>               | <b>231,441</b> |

**10. Investment properties**

|                                       | <b>Investment<br/>properties</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                       | <b>\$</b>                        |
| <b>262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney</b> |                                  |
| Fair value 1 July 2021                | 21,907,698                       |
| Net gains from fair value adjustment  | 1,000,612                        |
| <b>Fair value 30 June 2022</b>        | <b>22,908,310</b>                |
| Fair value 1 July 2022                | 22,908,310                       |
| Net gains from fair value adjustment  | 897,202                          |
| <b>Fair value 30 June 2023</b>        | <b>23,805,512</b>                |

**262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney**

In 2015, RSL NSW purchased 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney for \$8,690,000 and in future periods incurred expenses in respect of a development application of \$782,179. The property was reclassified to as an investment property for the year ended 31 December 2016 to reflect its intended use. The property was intended to be held for capital appreciation. On December 2020, RSL NSW entered into a Put and Call Option (PCO) deed with Central Element to sell 262 Castlereagh Street along with Hyde Park Inn. The future Minimum Purchase Price has been agreed at \$95m for both properties. RSL NSW has used this \$95m plus a forecast uplift of \$11m as a future fair value for both Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street and has used the discounted present value method to revalue 262 Castlereagh Street as at 30 June 2023. This has resulted in a revaluation gain of \$897k for 262 Castlereagh Street which has been credited to the profit and loss statement as a fair value gain on investment properties.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**11. Financial Asset investments**

**Financial assets held at fair value through other comprehensive income**

|                                 | <b>2023</b>       | <b>2022</b>       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                 | <b>\$</b>         | <b>\$</b>         |
| Investment - Debt Instruments   | 6,374,024         | 6,289,583         |
| Mortgage and wholesale funds    | 5,392,901         | 4,989,965         |
| Investment - Alternative Assets | 2,121,794         | 894,468           |
|                                 | <b>13,888,720</b> | <b>12,174,016</b> |

The fair value is determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

**12. Fair value measurement**

The following table provides the valuation details of RSL NSW's assets measured at fair value:

|   | <b>Date of Valuation</b> | <b>\$</b>         |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Assets measured at fair value:</b>         |                          |                   |
| <b>Financial Asset investments (Note 11)</b>  |                          |                   |
| Mortgage and wholesale funds                  | <b>2023</b>              | <b>5,392,901</b>  |
|   | 2022                     | 4,989,965         |
| Investment - Debt Instruments                 | <b>2023</b>              | <b>6,374,024</b>  |
|   | 2022                     | 6,289,583         |
| Investment - Alternative Assets               | <b>2023</b>              | <b>2,121,794</b>  |
|   | 2022                     | 894,468           |
| <b>Property, plant and equipment (Note 8)</b> |                          |                   |
| Hyde Park Inn                                 | <b>2023</b>              | <b>65,551,919</b> |
|   | 2022                     | 63,081,343        |
| <b>Investment properties (Note 10)</b>        |                          |                   |
| 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney                | <b>2023</b>              | <b>23,805,512</b> |
|   | 2022                     | 22,908,310        |

The fair value of financial assets is determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.



**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**13. Trade and other payables**

|                                      | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                      | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| Trade and other payables             | 1,662,304        | 634,825          |
| Deposits in advance                  | 56,006           | 102,314          |
| Donation payable to RSL LifeCare     | 2,619,622        | 3,162,224        |
| Payroll tax payable                  | 7,477            | 5,334            |
| sub-Branch grant received in advance | 863,816          | 296,228          |
|                                      | <b>5,209,226</b> | <b>4,200,925</b> |

**14. Employee benefit liabilities**

|                    | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                    | <b>\$</b>      | <b>\$</b>      |
| <b>Current</b>     |                |                |
| Annual leave       | 386,496        | 379,849        |
| Long service leave | 404,820        | 388,308        |
|                    | <b>791,316</b> | <b>768,157</b> |
| <b>Non-current</b> |                |                |
| Long service leave | 30,572         | 18,508         |
|                    | <b>30,572</b>  | <b>18,508</b>  |

**15. Specific purpose obligations**

|                                       | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                       | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| <b>Current</b>                        |                  |                  |
| Funds held on behalf of sub-Branches  | 8,871,288        | -                |
|                                       | <b>8,871,288</b> | <b>-</b>         |
| <b>Non-current</b>                    |                  |                  |
| Youth councils                        | 47,752           | 41,650           |
| Scholarships                          | 32,494           | 32,494           |
| Memorial and commemoration provisions | 793              | 793              |
| Funds held on behalf of sub-Branches  | -                | 4,486,607        |
|                                       | <b>81,039</b>    | <b>4,561,544</b> |

**16. Deferred income**

|  | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| Option fees received in advance from sale of asset | 9,900,000        | 6,600,000        |
|  | <b>9,900,000</b> | <b>6,600,000</b> |

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**17. Fair value reserves**

|  | <b>Fair Value Reserve</b> | <b>Asset revaluation reserve</b> | <b>Total</b>      |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>                 | <b>\$</b>                        | <b>\$</b>         |
| <b>As at 1 July 2021</b>                         | <b>2,659,495</b>          | <b>42,187,939</b>                | <b>44,847,434</b> |
| Decrease in value of financial asset investments | (2,023,477)               | -                                | (2,023,477)       |
| Increase in value of land and buildings          | -                         | 2,955,975                        | 2,955,975         |
| <b>As at 30 June 2022</b>                        | <b>636,018</b>            | <b>45,143,914</b>                | <b>45,779,932</b> |
| Increase in value of financial asset investments | 595,906                   | -                                | 595,906           |
| Increase in value of land and buildings          | -                         | 2,849,577                        | 2,849,577         |
| <b>As at 30 June 2023</b>                        | <b>1,231,924</b>          | <b>47,993,491</b>                | <b>49,225,415</b> |

**Nature and purpose of reserves**

**Financial assets**

Changes in the fair value and exchange differences arising on translation of investments that are classified as financial assets (e.g., equities), are recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and accumulated in a separate reserve within equity.

**Asset revaluation reserve**

The land and building of Hyde Park Inn is measured at fair value, with changes in fair value being recognised in OCI. On December 2020 RSL NSW entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future sale price of \$106m (future minimum sale price of \$95m plus forecast uplift of \$11m) as the fair value for Hyde Park Inn and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2023. The revaluation gain has been credited to the asset revaluation reserve.

**18. Leases**

RSL NSW entered into lease commitments in August 2021 with FujiFilm for printers and photocopy machines at its office premises. The lease term with FujiFilm will expire in October 2026. Information regarding the leases are presented below:

|                                | <b>Right of Use Asset</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                | <b>\$</b>                 |
| <b>Right of Use Asset</b>      |                           |
| Balance at 1 July 2022         | 41,302                    |
| Additions during the year      | -                         |
| Amortisation                   | (9,531)                   |
| Disposals during the year      | -                         |
| <b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b> | <b>31,771</b>             |

|   | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>     |
| <b>Lease liability</b>  |               |               |
| <i>Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cashflows</i> |               |               |
| Within one year   | 11,028        | 11,028        |
| After 1 year but less than 5 years                            | 25,732        | 36,760        |
| More than 5 years   | -             | -             |
|   | <b>36,760</b> | <b>47,788</b> |

**Lease liabilities included in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023:**

|             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current     | 9,261         | 8,715         |
| Non-current | 23,929        | 33,190        |
|             | <b>33,190</b> | <b>41,905</b> |

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**19. Commitments, contingencies and lease commitments**

**Capital Commitments**

RSL NSW did not have any capital commitments as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil).

**Contingent liabilities**

RSL NSW has a Bank Guarantee of \$322,582 against 175 Pitt Street premise's lease commitment as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil).

**20. Related party information**

|  | <b>Description of transactions</b> | <b>Entity Type</b> | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Revenue from</b>                    |                                    |                    | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>     |
| ANZAC House Trust                      | Management fees                    | 1                  | 40,200        | 20,400        |
| Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) | Management fees                    | 2                  | 22,063        | 26,476        |
| RSL LifeCare                           | Shared expenses                    | 3                  | 6,117         | -             |
|  |                                    |                    | <b>68,380</b> | <b>46,876</b> |

|                    |                            |   | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Payments To</b> |                            |   | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>   |
| RSL LifeCare Ltd.  | Donation, grants and other | 3 | 3,166,442        | -           |
|                    |                            |   | <b>3,166,442</b> | <b>-</b>    |

|  |  |   | <b>2023</b>        | <b>2022</b>        |
|--|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Amounts owed to Related Parties</b> |  |   | <b>\$</b>          | <b>\$</b>          |
| RSL LifeCare Ltd.                      |  | 3 | (2,619,622)        | (3,162,224)        |
|  |  |   | <b>(2,619,622)</b> | <b>(3,162,224)</b> |

|  |  |   | <b>2023</b>  | <b>2022</b> |
|--|--|---|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Amounts owed by Related Parties</b> |  |   |              |             |
| RSL LifeCare Ltd.                      |  | 3 | 6,117        | -           |
|  |  |   | <b>6,117</b> | <b>-</b>    |

**Entity Type**

1. The entity occupies the premises leased by the Trust. The entity and the Trust have common natural persons as members of the Board of Management.
2. The entity and AFOF have common natural persons as members of the Board of Management.
3. RSL NSW is the sole corporate member of RSL LifeCare Ltd.

**21. Auditors remuneration**

PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Ltd Partnership was appointed to conduct the audit of the statutory financial report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2023.

|  | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>     |
| <b>Amounts received or due and receivable:</b>   |               |               |
| Fees for auditing the statutory financial report - PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Ltd Partnership | 60,000        | 55,000        |
|  | <b>60,000</b> | <b>55,000</b> |

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

**22. Board of Directors and key management personnel compensation**

The members of the Board during the reporting period was as follows:

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Position</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Ronald Raymond James | President       |
| Phillip Chin         | Director        |
| Sophie Ray           | Director        |
| Phillip Bridie       | Director        |
| John Hutcheson       | Director        |
| David McCann         | Director        |
| Stephen Graham       | Director        |
| Louise Sullivan      | Director        |
| Jason Hazell         | Director        |
| James Hungerford     | Director        |

The Directors are not remunerated by RSL NSW, only certain expenses incurred on behalf of RSL NSW are reimbursed. These expenses amounted to \$45,950 (2022: \$28,903).

Key management personnel are persons who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of RSL NSW during the financial period. Total remuneration paid to key management personnel is reported below:

|  | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>\$</b>   | <b>\$</b>   |
| <b>Total compensation paid to key management personnel</b> | 1,191,893   | 1,191,333   |

**23. Donations made**

|   | <b>2023</b>      | <b>2022</b>      |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>        |
| <b>Funds were distributed as follows:</b> |                  |                  |
| RSL sub-Branches                          | 234,000          | 66,359           |
| Donations made to RSL LifeCare Ltd.       | 2,619,622        | 3,154,506        |
| Donation other                            | 19,660           | 5,000            |
|   | <b>2,873,282</b> | <b>3,225,865</b> |



### **Responsible Entities' declaration**

I, Ronald Raymond James, President of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (RSL NSW) declare that in my opinion:

- 1) the financial statements and notes of RSL NSW satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including by giving a true and fair view of the financial position of RSL NSW as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date and by complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 to the financial statements;
- 2) there are reasonable grounds to believe RSL NSW is able to pay all of its debts as and when they become due and payable.

I am authorised by the responsible entities to sign this declaration under section 60.15(2) of the ACNC Regulation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RR James', written over a horizontal line.

**Ronald Raymond James**

President  
RSL NSW

Dated this 21st day of September 2023



**President's declaration given under Charitable Fundraising Authority Condition 6(3)**

I, Ronald Raymond James, President of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (RSL NSW) declare that in the circumstances and to the relevant extent, in my opinion:

1. the income statement gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of income and expenditure of RSL NSW with respect to fundraising appeals;
2. the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of RSL NSW with respect to its fundraising appeals;
3. the provisions of the Act, the regulations under the Act and the conditions attached to the RSL NSW Charitable Fundraising Authority have been complied with; or
4. the internal controls exercised by the organisation are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by RSL NSW from any fundraising appeals.

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**Ronald Raymond James**

President  
RSL NSW

Dated this 21st day of September 2023

**Firm Name**

PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Limited Partnership  
ABN 91 850 861 839

PO Box 2368  
Dangar NSW 2309

GPO Box 5446  
Sydney NSW 2001

+61(2) 4962 2688

+61(2) 8346 6000

pkf.com.au

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH) ("RSL NSW")

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of RSL NSW, has been prepared in accordance with *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

## Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

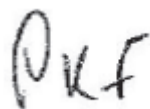


## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, action taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.



PKF



KYM REILLY  
PARTNER

21 SEPTEMBER 2023  
SYDNEY, NSW



**Firm Name**

PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Limited Partnership  
ABN 91 850 861 839

PO Box 2368  
Dangar NSW 2309

GPO Box 5446  
Sydney NSW 2001

+61(2) 4962 2688

+61(2) 8346 6000

pkf.com.au

**Auditors' Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Directors of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW")**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PKF".

PKF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kym Reilly".

KYM REILLY  
PARTNER

21 SEPTEMBER 2023  
SYDNEY, NSW



## **APPENDIX A – MINUTES OF MEETING 1 NOVEMBER 2022**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Annual General Meeting**

Meeting Venue: Newcastle Convention & Exhibition Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle and via Lumi online delegate platform

Meeting Date: Tuesday 1 November 2022

**Present – Board**

Ray James (President)  
Sophie Ray (Chair RSL NSW Board)  
Phillip Bridie  
Phillip Chin  
  
Steve Graham  
Jason Hazell  
Jim Hungerford  
John Hutcheson  
David McCann  
Louise Sullivan

**Present – Management**

Jon Black, Chief Executive Officer  
Jeff O'Brien, State Secretary & Company Secretary  
Nicole Hasrouni, Chief Financial Officer  
Trina Constable, Head of Communications Marketing & Membership  
Reuben Bowd, Head of Legal  
Jonathan Childs, Project Manager

**Present**

190 delegates  
*^part of meeting only*

**Invitees**

Scott Tobutt, PKF<sup>^</sup>

**Opening**

Ray James (RJ), the President and Chair of the meeting, noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open at 1:03pm.

RJ introduced the Board to the delegates.

**President's Report**

RJ commented on the events that had taken place since the last face to face AGM held in 2019; the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, appointment of a new Prime Minister and Premier and the assistance to the communities from the ADF during the bush fires in 2019 and 2020 and the devastating floods in 2021 and 2022. RJ also commented on the war in Ukraine and the necessity for the ADF to be better equipped for the future with regards to support weapons and platforms.

RJ commented on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the devastating testimony that had been heard. He advised that RSL NSW had made a submission to the Royal Commission highlighting the role that the league could play to support the veterans and their families, but that this required the support of all the sub-Branches and members.

RJ highlighted the donation made to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services in the amount of \$3.1 m and thanked the sub-Branches for their donations and especially those sub-Branches that made significant donations to the Veteran Support Fund (VSF), noting that donations to the VSF would help the RSL to achieve its charitable purpose objectives. RJ detailed the assistance from RSL LifeCare to the veteran community.

RJ commented on the assets held by the sub-Branches totalling \$718 m and questioned whether aging buildings and investment accounts were the best way to support the veterans, or whether those funds could be put to better use and gain returns in different ways, eg rental returns. He challenged the sub-Branches to start fund raising, to get the brand out to the public and to show the community that the RSL cared about the veterans and their families. He encouraged the sub-Branches to actively encourage non-service members to join the auxiliary and thanked the auxiliary for their contributions.

RJ questioned why RSL NSW relied on government grants to fund Veteran Hubs, and why RSL NSW couldn't fund these hubs. RJ would like to see at least 10 veteran hubs established in NSW.

RJ commented on the number of Constitutional Motions that had been put forward to the AGM noting that no motions were made to address or support veterans battling with mental health or to address veteran suicide.

RJ advised that RSL was the largest league in NSW and that the Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women had approached the RSL to merge with them due to their dwindling membership. He encouraged smaller sub-Branches to consider becoming chapters of larger sub-Branches.

RJ challenged the sub-Branches to look at the way they operated and encouraged them to engage differently and find ways to include young members and their families.

RJ challenged the District Councils to be more active and engaged in the sub-Branch activities. He encouraged everyone to work together to ensure that the League continued to flourish and support the veteran community.

RJ highlighted the 2021 census results noting that 174,000 veterans were based in NSW and shared his wish that every veteran would know what the RSL stood for by 2026.

RJ thanked all the volunteers for their hard work and support and encouraged all the members to participate in a respectful manner and to consider how we could do more for veterans and their families and veterans living below the poverty line, and those contemplating suicide.

## **Financial and Audit Report**

Nicole Hasrouni (NH) presented the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022. She advised that no new accounting standards were adopted in the financial year and the financial statements were prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

NH highlighted key timeline transactions and events:

- Relocation of ANZAC House from George St to Pitt St
- The sale of Concord RSL investment property
- Appointment of new auditors, PKF
- Receipt of the second-year option fee payment received for Hyde Park Inn (HPI), noting that a contract of sale was in place with a delayed settlement and that the site would be developed on settlement
- Sale contract for 262 Castlereagh Street (262)
- DA for HPI was lodged with City of Sydney
- Donation made to RSL LifeCare in the amount of \$3.1 m

NH spoke to the financial position of the organisation highlighting the income and expenditure of 2021/2022 financial year and the improvement in the budget deficit. Noting an increase in turnover at the HPI after the Covid lockdown.

NH highlighted entries on the balance sheet and commented on the strengthening of assets by 17% due to the revaluation of HPI, 262 and the sale of Concord, advising that the deferred income would be noted as revenue after settlement occurred.

NH explained the revaluation of HPI and 262, with a minimum purchase price of \$95m and a future uplift value and noted that the expected settlement date was end of 2023.

NH advised that:

- The organisation had the ability to pay any debts as and when they fell due.
- An investment portfolio was established with Morgan Stanley in Dec 2021, and that the portfolio had been impacted by market volatility which continued to impact the performance.
- There were 2 related party transactions for management services provided to ANZAC House Trust (AHT) and AFOF.

NH thanked all the sub-Branches who supported RSL LifeCare and thanked the auxiliary for their support in the poppy appeals and fund raising.

Scott Tobutt – PKF partner, presented his report, confirming that the audit was complete and that PKF received full cooperation from management and that all deadlines were met. He stated that the audit report (attached to the financial statements) was unqualified.

## Rules and Voting Procedure

RJ outlined the rules and procedures to be used during the meeting including the voting procedures. He reminded Delegates to submit their votes at the appropriate times.

*The following motions required a simple majority of 50.1% to carry.*

## Motions for Consideration

### 1. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

That the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were adopted.

#### Results:

For: 99.46 %

Against: 0.54 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

### 2. Register of Motions

That members note:

- a) the summary Register of Motions passed at the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 Annual Congress and the status of their implementation; and that
- b) in accordance with the resolution passed by Members at the 2019 Congress, that an updated Register will be provided to members within two (2) calendar months of the conclusion of the 2022 AGM.

#### Results:

For: 100 %

Against: 0 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

### 3. Endorse Wording of Constitution

That Members endorse the wording of amendments to the RSL NSW Constitution that were approved at the 2021 RSL NSW Annual General Meeting and came into effect on 1 January 2022.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 98.90 % |
| Against: | 1.10 %  |

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

### 4. Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditors Reports

That the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for RSL NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 were adopted and the requirement to lodge the Annual Report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2022 with the Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney following the 2022 AGM was noted.

**Results:**

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| For:     | 100 % |
| Against: | 0 %   |

**Motion Carried and Resolution Passed**

### 5. Venue for next Annual State Congress & AGM

THAT the venue for the next Annual Congress/Annual General Meeting (and where possible any extraordinary general meeting) to be conducted by way of in person attendance, will be at **Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle West** with the Board to determine whether or not such next meeting will be held by way of in person attendance or by remote technology in its discretion.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 96.81 % |
| Against: | 3.19 %  |

**Motion Carried and Resolution Passed**

David Ingram announced a Point of Order, that according to the Constitution the Board was not allowed to put motions forward but that they could put a resolution forward, quoting Appendix C para 2, and para 8.12.

The chair suspended the meeting to confer with colleagues on the point of order.

The Chair resumed the meeting and advised that to achieve a resolution a motion was required and as such the Board motions stand.

*The following motions required a simple majority of 50.1% to carry.*

## 6. ANZAC House Motions

### 6.1 ANZAC APP

**Proposer – Castle Hill and District and Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW develop a free ANZAC APP for use by people who are unable to attend an ANZAC Dawn Service.

**Moved:** David Hand – Castle Hill

The speaker referred to the motion sheet without adding further comments.

**Seconded:** David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 75.68%

Against: 24.32 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

## 6.2 Recruiting

**Proposer – Castle Hill and District**

That RSL NSW develop a plan to facilitate recruiting in NSW for new members.

**Moved:** David Hand – Castle Hill

The speaker advised that the motion and supporting arguments were as read.

**Seconded:** David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 89.25 %

Against: 10.75 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

## 6.3 Service Badges

**Proposer – Ingleburn**

That RSL NSW request RSL National to seek permission from the Chief of the Defence Force for them, i.e., RSL National, to be the sole approver for RSL sub-Branches to use the Service Badges on Memorials, etc. instead of the individual Service Brand Managers.

**Moved:** Patrick O'Grady - Ingleburn

The speaker highlighted the steps taken to obtain permission to use the brands on the sub-Branch sandstorm memorial. Requesting that RSL National have the right to authorise the use of the ADF Badges.

**Seconded:** Warren Browning - City of Campbelltown

The speaker fully endorsed the Ingleburn sub-Branch motion and would like to see the governing body, RSL National granting the sub-Branches permission to use ADF badges.

**Speaker against the motion:** Kevin Barrington - Coonabarabran

The speaker stated that brand managers owned the brand and found it unclear how RSL National could own the brand.

**Speaker for the motion:** Graham Docksey – City of Albury

The speaker supported the motion having worked with the services he suggested that this issue might be a communication issue only. Noting that there was a 4th brand manager, namely the ADF.

**Right of Reply – Patrick O'Grady - Ingleburn**



The speaker advised that Ingleburn did not want to own the brand, they were requesting a quick turnaround and no longer had banners on the fences. Quote had to be obtained again for the sandstone memorial.

**Results:**

For: 64.74 %

Against: 35.26 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

*The following motions required a simple majority of 50.1% to carry.*

## **7. Veteran Policy Motions**

### **7.1 RSL as Peak Body**

#### **Proposer – Board**

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.

**Moved:** David McCann - RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the RSL was the oldest Veterans organisation in Australia, and while it agreed that the focus was lost for a period, after the enquiry and careful restructure the focus had returned to the veterans and their families. The speaker highlighted the support that was required from the sub-Branches and its members to play an influential role in supporting the veterans. Noting that the Veteran Services & Policy Committee (VSPC) had made significant recommendations to RSL National, ESORT and DVA for improvements in services.

**Seconded:** Bronte Pollard - Kirribilli

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 93.19 %

Against: 6.81 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

### **7.2 DVA Consultation with ESOs**

#### **Proposer – Board**

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.

**Moved:** David McCann - RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the VSPC had successfully advocated to DVA to improve turnaround times in communications between the Department, ESO's and advocates and advised that significant RSL projects were underway including recommendation of major improvements to the ADTP program, simplifying the complex legislation governing veterans affairs and making DVA services accessible to more veterans.

**Seconded:** Graham Docksey - City of Albury

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 94.65 %

Against: 5.35 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed****7.3 Homelessness****Proposer – Ourimbah-Lisarow**

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.

**Moved:** Howard Bell - Ourimbah-Lisarow

The speaker spoke to the opportunity to create a legally enforceable right to shelter and the current statistics on veteran homelessness and the high risk of homelessness for veterans, noting that Australia was a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that created a guarantee of protection against homelessness and the International Protocol in relation to social, economic and cultural rights had almost identical terms. The speaker believed that this was the right time for the RSL to lead the campaign against homelessness.

**Seconded:** Bob Couper - Doyalson Wyee

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 93.26 %

Against: 6.74 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed****7.4 Solar Panel Service****Proposer – City of Queanbeyan**

That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) implement and provide a Solar Panel maintenance service for eligible veterans.

**Moved:** Matt Helm - City of Queanbeyan

The speaker reiterated the supporting argument for the motion.

**Seconded:** Todd Vercoe – Bowraville & District

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 87.56 %

Against: 12.44 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed****7.5 Fund to Support Veterans at AAT****Proposer – City of Sydney**

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.

**Moved** Syd Griffith - City of Sydney

The speaker reiterated the supporting argument for the motion.

**Seconded:** Morrie Gallina - Corrimal

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 91.01 %

Against: 8.99 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

## 7.6 Advice to Seek Advocate Support

**Proposer – City of Sydney**

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.

**Moved:** Syd Griffith - City of Sydney

The speaker reiterated the supporting argument for the motion.

**Seconded:** Bronte Pollard - Kirribilli

The speaker supported the motion, advising that the McKenzie report into the DVA's claim processing found that 94% of the claims submitted online were incomplete. The majority of claims submitted with the assistance of an advocate had more successful outcomes. Incomplete claims were creating huge backlog with the DVA. Noting that DVA were promoting the lodging of online claims through their Veteran Support Officers at the transition seminars.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 98.45 %

Against: 1.55 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

*The following motions required a special resolution two-thirds majority (66.7%) to carry*

## 8. Constitutional Motions

### 8.1 14.3 (d) & 21.1 DPC Role in SOP

**Proposer – Board**

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words:

(a) "and/or approving amendments" from clause 14.3 (d); and

(b) "and approved by" from clause 21.1

to read:

14.3 *The District Presidents' Council will represent sub-Branches and District Councils and will exercise the following functions and powers:*

(d) *periodically reviewing the Standard Operating Procedures and proposing amendments ~~and/or approving amendments~~ to the Standard Operating Procedures; and*

21.1 *The Board may from time to time pass a resolution adopting or amending Policies and Standard Operating Procedures, provided however any adoption and any amendments to Standard*

*Operating Procedures will be done in consultation with ~~and approved by~~ the District Presidents' Council.*

**Moved:** Louise Sullivan – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the proposed amendment aligned with the governance of the DPC and Board roles noting the role of the Board was to be responsible for the overall management, governance and strategic direction of the organisation while being accountable to the members. The DPC played a critical role by keeping the Board apprised of the members views, however, the DPC should not have the right to approve SOP's or policies, which was the Board's role. The Board recognised there was a path of collaboration. RSL would succeed if everyone worked together for the better of the Veterans.

**Seconded:** Penshurst however this was withdrawn because the alternate delegate seconded the motion

**Seconded:** John Knight – Gundagai

**Speaker against the motion:** David Clarke - Western Metro DC

The speaker claimed that this motion would remove the authority of the DPC role and stated that the Constitution was drawn up without regional representation and that the members would have representation via the district councils. He stated that the Board could choose to endorse the DPC approval, but that it was important to gain DPC approval. The speaker referred to a recent discussion paper that was circulated and questioned if removing the DPC authority was for the good of the league.

**Speaker against the motion –** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC

The speaker advised that the district was against the proposal, as the role of the DPC was to provide a regional voice. He suggested that the word be changed to "endorsed" by the DPC or Board and not remove the word approve. Without that process there was no way for the DPC to get involved.

**Right of Reply:** Louise Sullivan – RSL NSW Board

The speaker re-emphasized that the Constitution currently led to a degree of confusion of the roles of the Board and DPC and that the roles should be reflected clearly. The Board as the leaders of the organisation had to accord by the best governance principles and show how the organisation was being led. Acknowledging that the Board did not always get it right, but that the DPC should not have last right of approval because that would lead to an issue with governance.

**Results:**

For: 34.69 %

Against: 65.31 %

**Motion Lost**

## 8.2 15.4 (ii) Auxiliary Member to Hold Office

**Proposer – Board**

That clause 15.4 (a) (ii) of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the word "or" between the words Service Member and Affiliate Member and adding the words "or Auxiliary Member" after Affiliate Member to read:

*15.4 To be eligible to be approved as an RSL NSW sub-Branch, a sub-Branch must:*

- (a) Form a sub-Branch executive committee comprising:*
- (ii) a Treasurer and a Secretary each of whom must be a Service Member, or Affiliate Member **or Auxiliary Member** (provided that one person may, if the sub-Branch decides, be appointed as both Treasurer and Secretary); and*

**Moved:** Phillip Chin – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the auxiliary members formed an important part of the organisation and that this would allow them to take up treasurer and secretary positions, utilising their skills, and allowing them to

contribute and complement service members where there were insufficient volunteers specifically for those positions.

**Seconded:** Fred Goode – Maitland

**Speaker against the motion:** John Tramby - Gunnedah

The speaker advised that the auxiliary members did not have voting rights at sub-Branch meetings and would therefore be unable to undertake Treasurer duties effectively.

**Speaker for the motion:** Bob Waller – Old Bar Beach

The speaker advised that the auxiliary members support at smaller sub-Branches was crucial and that they needed everyone's support as a community. Noting that funds were received through the auxiliary efforts.

**Speaker for the motion:** Kevin Barrington – Coonabarabran

The speaker highlighted that RSL NSW was required to hold a register of members and that no auxiliary members information was recorded on the member portal. This would necessitate several changes to be made and he encouraged that RSL recognise auxiliary members in the portal.

**Right of reply:** Phillip Chin – RSL NSW Board

The speaker noted that was a valid point raised and advised that the portal was currently being updated. He commented that affiliate members were currently allowed to hold executive positions.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 62.23 % |
| Against: | 37.77 % |

**Motion Lost**

**8.3 15.8 Code of Conduct Breach**

**Proposer – Board**

That clause 15.8 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new sub-clause **in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure – sub-Branch Conduct Committee, have the authority to establish a Conduct Committee to manage breaches of the RSL NSW Code of Conduct at the sub-Branch.**” to read:

*15.8 The functions, duties and obligations of a sub-Branch are controlled and managed by the sub-Branch Executives and in the case of an incorporated sub-Branch the Board or management committee as the case may be who:*

*(e) in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure – sub-Branch Conduct Committee, have the authority to establish a Conduct Committee to manage breaches of the RSL NSW Code of Conduct at the sub-Branch.*

**Moved:** Jason Hazell - RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the code of conduct was based upon the RSL's values, namely Courage, Respect, Teamwork & Trust and that it was agreed through a consultative process to empower the sub-Branches to establish a body to manage any breaches of conduct, noting that a SOP still had to be produced and agreed.

**Seconded:** Morrie Gallina – Corrimal

**Speaker against the motion:** Derek Leslie – Northern Metro DC

The speaker commented that the members were being asked to approve in principle an unwritten SOP that had not gone through any procedure, validation or DPC consideration.

**Results:**

For: 47.09 %

Against: 52.91 %

**Motion Lost****8.4 15.16 sub-Branch Notice of General Meeting****Proposer – Board**

That clause 15.16 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words “in accordance with Appendix C” and replacing them with the words “**by giving no less than two weeks written notice to all members attached to the sub-Branch and**” to read:

*15.16 The sub-Branch Executives may call sub-Branch general meetings as and when required ~~in accordance with Appendix C~~ **by giving no less than two weeks written notice to all members attached to the sub-Branch and** provided that they must call sub-Branch general meetings at least quarterly, one of which must be an annual general meeting.*

**Moved:** Sophie Ray – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this motion was brought to reduce the 4 weeks’ notice period to 2 weeks’ notice for general meetings which was more in keeping with how the sub-Branches operated. Noting that clause 15.17 referred sub-Branches to Appendix C which mostly applied to RSL NSW AGM’s. ANZAC House would develop a guidance note to outline the relevant sections of Appendix C for a sub-Branch general meeting.

**Seconded:** Geoff Tate – City of Liverpool

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 92.55 %

Against: 7.45 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed****8.5 15.39 Due Date for Annual Returns****Proposer – Board**

That clause 15.39 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the word “March” and replacing it with the word “May” to read:

*15.39 Each sub-Branch must, and will be in default of its obligation to comply with this Constitution if it does not, by 31 ~~March~~ **May** each year (unless agreed otherwise in writing by RSL NSW)*

**Moved:** Sophie Ray – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this was purely an administrative change recognising that congress had moved from May to October and would assist sub-Branches to have their accounts finalised to complete their ACNC Annual Information Statement by the 30 June deadline.

**Seconded:** Jayne McCarthy – Tamworth

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 98.40 %

Against: 1.60 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

8.6     **16.15 Attendance Requirement for RSL Custodian**  
**Proposer – Board**

That clause 16.15 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by inserting the sentence “**RSL Custodian, acting as either co-Trustee or sole Trustee for a sub-Branch, is exempt from the requirement to attend sub-Branch general meetings and the sub-Branch Annual General Meeting**” after the sentence ending in the words “...calendar year” to read:

*16.15 Trustees must keep the sub-Branch Executives regularly and fully informed on all matters regarding sub-*

*Branch Property held on trust and must attend at least three general meetings including the annual general meeting convened and held by the sub-Branch in a calendar year. **RSL Custodian, acting as either co-Trustee or sole Trustee for a sub-Branch, is exempt from the requirement to attend sub-Branch general meetings and the sub-Branch Annual General Meeting.** The appointment of an RSL NSW Member as a Trustee will not otherwise affect their rights and obligations as an RSL NSW Member.*

**Moved:** John Hutcheson – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this motion reflected the practicalities of how Custodian was operated, noting that Ray and 3 directors currently met every fortnight to discuss any Custodian matters. He asked the members to consider the cost benefit analysis for Custodian Directors to attend sub-Branch general meetings, or whether this matter was better served as currently relevant.

**Seconded:** Todd Vercoe - Bowraville

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 82.98 %

Against: 17.02 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

8.7     **16.23 Removal of Trustee**  
**Proposer – Board**

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words ‘Special Resolution’ and replacing them with the words ‘majority resolution’ in clause 16.23 to read:

*16.23 The Trustees jointly and severally recognise the right of the President as appointor, the sub-Branch by ~~Special Resolution~~ **majority resolution** and/or the Board to remove the Trustees (or any of them) from office at any time in accordance with the Constitution, and each of them agree to cooperate and act in accordance with any lawful or reasonable direction by the Board in the event of such removal.*

**Moved:** John Hutcheson – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that according to the Constitution the sub-Branch President had the right to appoint a Trustee based upon a special resolution or membership itself. This amendment would make it easier at sub-Branch level to change Trustees to move from a 66.7% to a 50.1% majority requirement to pass.

**Seconded:** Leigh Warren - Wangi Wangi

**Speaker against the motion:** David Clarke - Western Metro DC

The speaker opposed the motion stating that their motion was submitted to remove clause 16.24 while leaving 16.23 in place, and that the Board had submitted a motion after receiving the motion from Western

Metro DC. The speaker believed that trustees in the more affluent sub-Branches held a significant and important role and that it shouldn't be too easy to change Trustees, noting that this was a costly exercise.

**Speaker against the motion:** Matt Helm – City of Queanbeyan

The speaker advised that the motion did not state whether the sub-Branch President had to give a reason why a Trustee was being removed.

**Right of Reply:** John Hutcheson – RSL NSW Board

Advised that the key point was the fact that the members were the ones who determined who they wanted to be trustees of their investments, and this amendment would allow them a much easier way to do that.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 55.32 % |
| Against: | 44.68 % |

**Motion Lost**

**8.8 16.24 Removal of Trustee**  
**Proposer – Western Metro DC**

That Clause 16 Para 24 be removed in its entirety and that subsequent Paras be renumbered.

**Moved:** David Clarke - Western Metro

The speaker advised that this motion was to tidy up a serious clash between the 2 clauses in the constitution where one determined the need for a special resolution and the other clause made provision for a general or simple majority.

**Seconded:** John Olive – Tilligerry

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 76.63 % |
| Against: | 23.37 % |

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

**8.9 Appendix A Definition of Code of Conduct**  
**Proposer – Board**

That the definition of Code of Conduct contained in Appendix A of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to read:

*Code of Conduct means the **RSL NSW** code of conduct for ~~Directors~~ **any RSL NSW Member or RSL NSW Officer** adopted from time to time ~~under clause 9.55~~.*

**Moved:** Jason Hazell – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that the Board recently approved the code of conduct applicable to all members and officers of RSL NSW and that the definition in Appendix A should be amended to apply to all members of the RSL.

**Seconded:** Glenn Mount - Singleton

No delegates spoke against the motion.



**Results:**

For: 90.91 %

Against: 9.09 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed****8.10 Appendix A Definition of Veteran  
Proposer – Board**

That Appendix A of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by alphabetically adding a definition of Veteran to read:

***Veteran has the same meaning as in the Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019 (Cth).***

**Moved:** Sophie Ray – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this was an administrative change, as the term Veteran was currently not defined in the Constitution, noting that this definition would align with the Veterans Act and was inclusive of both full time and reserve service members.

**Seconded:** Brian Mortimer - Bellingen River

**Speaker against the motion:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC

The speaker stated that this had become relevant as the Constitution amended in 2019 identified its charitable purpose to cater for veterans in the ADF only, where previously veterans were identified as allied veterans and ADF members. This would exclude any allied veterans from receiving any assistance or donations.

**Speaker against the motion:** David Clarke – Western Metro DC

The speaker advised that their sub-Branch also had at least 2 allied veterans, who under this definition would be excluded from assistance if we adhered to the letter of the law.

**Right of Reply:** Sophie Ray – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this motion was to align the Constitution with the current Act, advising that changes to the Act should be taken up with the relevant department.

**Results:**

For: 43.62 %

Against: 56.38 %

**Motion Lost****8.11 Clause 3 & Appendix A Definition of Veteran  
Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to define Veteran to include Veterans of Allies by amending:

(a) Clauses 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5(b), 3.5(c) and 3.5(d) from “current and former members of the Australian Defence Force” in to “veterans”; and

(b) Appendix A to include:

*Veteran means:*

(a) *a ‘veteran’ within the meaning of the Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019; or*

(b) *a person who has served, or is serving, as a member of the Armed Forces of:*

- (i) *any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;*
- (ii) *any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;*
- (iii) *the United States of America; or*
- (c) *a person to whom sub-paragraph (b) above does not apply, but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:*
  - (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*
  - (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.*

**Moved:** David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC

The speaker advised that this amendment would allow the RSL to treat all allied veterans the same as ADF veterans and members without giving them special treatment but allowing them to continue the bond with veterans from across the world.

**Seconded:** Ted Haslehurst – Ashfield

**Speaker against the motion:** David McCann – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this matter had already been put forward to RSL National by VSPC after being considered at the 2021 Congress. He agreed that everyone wanted to see allied troops as members of sub-Branches and able to enjoy privileges, however, he cautioned that changing the Constitution would have a detrimental effect on the RSL NSW advocates and the whole encompassing power, as advocates would be inundated with servicemen requesting assistance for compensation and benefits from foreign countries. Resulting in RSL NSW being unable to meet its charitable purpose of assisting veterans to obtain compensation to which they were entitled. Noting that there would also be a need to amend the RSL Charitable Purpose to bring it in line with the Act.

**Speaker against the motion:** Todd Vercoe – Bowraville & District

The speaker believed this would open up benefits for military contractors vs servicemen.

**Right of Reply** – David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC

The speaker advised that this would not include advocating for foreign matters, and that all services would remain the same, eg welfare and wellbeing and baskets of fruit. The speaker believed this would not benefit military contractors but rather would allow the RSL to treat servicemen from allied countries according to the rules of the RSL.

**Point of Order:** Sophie Ray – RSL NSW Board

David Ingram was asked to withdraw comments he made about possible adverse media coverage of a decision by delegates to reject this motion. Mr Ingram withdrew the comment.

#### **Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 45.50 % |
| Against: | 54.50 % |

**Motion Lost**

## **8.12 Appendix B 15 (c), 16 & 18 Membership Minimum Age Proposer – Board**

That Appendix B – Membership of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words “...over 17 years of age” in clause 15 (c) and adding new clauses 16 and 18 with the relevant renumbering to read:

*15 (c) a Cadet and/or Officer of Cadets ~~over 17 years of age~~;*

**NEW 16. *To be eligible to be an Affiliate Member in any of the categories in clause 15 above, a person must be at least 18 years of age.***

**NEW 18. To be eligible to be an Auxiliary Member a person must be at least 18 years of age.**

**Moved:** Sophie Ray –RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that this amendment would align the age requirement across all 3 categories of membership and cautioned that a number of regulatory steps and mandatory reporting would have to be actioned to include members under the age of 18.

**Seconded:** Paul Bryant - City of Fairfield

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 94.59 %

Against: 5.41 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

**8.13 9.8 (b) Eligibility to be Elected Director**

**Proposer – Western Metro DC**

*That clause 9.8 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new item (b) to read “(b) must have been a Service Member of RSL NSW for at least three (3) years or have filled a Board Vacancy for at least one (1) year.” with subsequent items in clause 9.8 to be renumbered.*

**Moved:** David Clarke – Western Metro DC

The speaker reiterated his supporting argument and emphasized that Board members should have a thorough understanding of sub-Branch matters and the organisation before getting a seat on the Board.

**Seconded:** Paul Hughes - Cumberland

The speaker believed that this experience would provide an understanding of the league without taking away the skill set required by the Board.

**Speaker against the motion:** David McCann – RSL NSW Board

The speaker reminded the members that every sub-Branch had expressed their concern at the aging membership and the need to attract younger members. This motion was divisive and would possibly turn younger veterans away. Every member had the right to nominate for any vacancy across the league and the members had the right to vote for whichever candidate they deemed best qualified for the position.

**Speaker against the motion:** Steve Walton - McClean

The speaker believed that this motion would detract from the flexibility that a new member could bring to the role and skills to complement the Board.

**Results:**

For: 28.72 %

Against: 71.28 %

**Motion Lost**

**8.14 9.8 (a) Board Director Experience**

**Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the eligibility to be an Elected Director by amending clause 9.8(a) to read:

*(a) be a Service Member with at least three years of service in the RSL;*

**Motion was withdrawn by David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC**

**8.15 9.23 Elected Director Vacancy**  
**Proposer – Western Metro DC**

That Clause 9.23 be amended to read as follows:

9.23 The Board will fill a vacancy created under clause 9.22 by:

- (a) *if available, appointing a member from the list of unsuccessful candidates from the previous ballot. The order of selection will be in accordance with the number of votes received; or if unavailable*
- (b) *the Board may appoint any person eligible to be an Elected Director under clauses 9.8 to 9.10 of this Constitution. The appointment must be approved by a simple majority of a meeting of the District Presidents Council.*

The person appointed to fill the Casual Vacancy will hold office until the expiry of the term of the Elected Director creating the vacancy.

**Moved:** David Clarke – Western Metro DC

The speaker believed that a register of candidates should be kept to more easily fill casual vacancy positions on the Board, as the members would already be familiar with the candidates.

**Seconded:** Ted Haslehurst - Ashfield

**Speaker against the motion:** Steve Graham – RSL NSW Board

The speaker advised that from a due diligence and contemporary point of view that selecting a person off the candidate register would not necessarily mean that candidate had the skill set required to fill the position effectively. He believed that due process should be followed and the position advertised to select the best person.

**Speaker against the motion:** Warren Sowter - Coffs Harbour

The speaker referred to the NSW Fair Trading incorporated associations model constitution allowing the Board the discretion to act as it deemed fit.

No members spoke for the motion.

**Right of reply:** David Clarke – Western Metro DC

The speaker reiterated that service members should be used to fill any vacancies and that recruiting of Board members should not be undertaken.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 36.26 % |
| Against: | 63.74 % |

**Motion Lost**

**8.16 15.56 sub-Branch Property Dealings**  
**Proposer – Western Metro DC & Far Western Metropolitan DC**

That clause 15.56 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by:

- (a) deleting "\$5,000" and replacing it with "\$10,000" and deleting "\$50,000" and replacing it with "\$100,000" in section (a);
  - (b) deleting "\$20,000" and replacing it with "\$50,000" and deleting "\$50,000" and replacing it with "\$100,000" in section (b); and
  - (c) deleting "\$5,000" and replacing it with "\$10,000" in section (c)
- to read:

15.56 The Trustees and sub-Branches must not:

- (a) make a donation or gift of ~~\$5,000~~ **\$10,000** or more and may not make donations or gifts totalling ~~\$50,000~~ **\$100,000** or more in any one calendar year;
- (b) incur an expense of ~~\$20,000~~ **\$50,000** or more on any single item, activity or event and may not incur expenses totalling ~~\$50,000~~ **\$100,000** or more in any one calendar year;
- (c) lend to any person or body or invest money totalling ~~\$5,000~~ **\$10,000** or more in any one calendar year (except in investments authorised by the terms of any trust deed relating to such money), without the prior written consent of the Board or its Delegate.

**Moved:** David Clarke – Western Metro DC

The speaker believed that this was a necessary adjustment for figures that had been in place for several years and should be increased accordingly.

**Seconded:** David Ingram - Far Western Metro DC

The speaker mentioned that this matter was raised last year with no outcome and believed it was a necessary amendment.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 82.70 % |
| Against: | 17.30 % |

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

8.17 **15.53 Property**

**Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That NSW RSL State Branch amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the directions on sub-Branch Property Dealings by:

Amending Clause 15.53 to add “real estate” before each mention of “Property”;

**Moved:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC

The speaker advised that the supporting argument was inaccurate. This motion was to deal with the definition of real estate property, and the selling or gaining thereof.

**Seconded:** Gary Grosmann - Trundle

**Point of Order** – David Clarke – Western Metro DC

Questioned whether this would be a consequential amendment.

Sophie Ray advised that this would not be a consequential amendment and would have to be a motion next year, resulting in 2 different definitions for the next year.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 57.53 % |
| Against: | 42.47 % |

**Motion Lost**

8.18 **15.55 & 15.57 Funding Limits**  
**Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That NSW RSL State Branch amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the directions on sub-Branch Property Dealings by:

Amending clause 15.55, and 15.57 to change all references to “\$5,000” to “\$10,000”.

**Moved:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC  
The speaker reiterated the supporting argument.

**Seconded:** Paul Bryant - City of Fairfield

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 85.41 % |
| Against: | 14.59 % |

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

8.19 **13.5 & 15.48 Affiliate as Delegate**  
**Proposer – Mascot**

That clauses 13.5 and 15.48 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to allow Affiliate Members to be delegates, by adding the sentence “***When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated***” to read:

- (a) 13.5 *The District Council Delegate and any Alternate District Council Delegates must be Service Members attached to the sub-Branch. **When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated.***
- (b) 15.48 *A sub-Branch, provided it has complied with all its obligations, duties and responsibilities under this Constitution, is entitled to appoint one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to attend the Annual General Meeting, Congress and any General Meeting. **When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated.***

**Moved:** Colin Flatters - Maroubra

The speaker spoke on behalf of Mascot sub-Branch, noting that some sub-Branches did not have sufficient service members to fill the positions.

**Seconded:** John Drum - Bribbaree

The speaker believed that several sub-Branches would face the same challenge and would have willing affiliate members to undertake the positions, without having the right to vote.

**Speaker against the motion:** Peter Stephenson – Newcastle DC

The speaker advised that an affiliate could vote on local matters but could not vote on constitutional matters.

**Speaker against the motion:** Brian Willey – Lower North Coast DC

The speaker believed this would dilute the service knowledge available to the role of District Councils.

**Results:**

For: 30.43 %

Against: 69.57 %

**Motion Lost**

Due to the Conflict of interest in the following motions, Ray James vacated the Chair and John Hutcheson assumed the position of Chair.

**8.20 9.6 President as Chair****Proposer – Corrimal**

That clause 9.6 of the RSL NSW Constitution be replaced with the following clause:

*9.6 The Chair of the Board will be the President of RSL NSW.*

**Moved:** Morrie Gallina - Corrimal

The speaker advised that the Chair of Board was a non-service director and that the RSL NW should have one chief responsible for the organisation.

**Seconded:** Matt Helm - City of Queanbeyan

The speaker reiterated the supporting argument.

**Speaker against the motion:** Peter Stephenson – Newcastle DC

The speaker believed that the Chair of the Board should be the most qualified person.

**Speaker against the motion:** Brian Willey – Lower North Coast DC

The speaker believed the Chair of the Board should be the most suitably qualified person and not simply because that person was the President.

**Right of reply:** Morrie Gallina – Corrimal

The speaker believed the Constitutional requirements providing that executive positions at sub-Branch and District Council levels be filled by service members should be reflected at state level and believed that the President should have the necessary skill set to fulfill all government and fiduciary responsibilities.

**Results:**

For: 48.65 %

Against: 51.35 %

**Motion Lost****8.21 9.6 Board Chair Eligibility****Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the appointment of the Board Chairman by amending clause 9.6 to read:

*“The Board must also appoint one Director, who may be the President or any other elected Director, to be the Chair.”*

**Moved:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC

The speaker reiterated the supporting argument.

**Seconded:** David Williams – Merrylands

**Speaker against the motion:** Brian Willey – Lower North Coast DC

The speaker advised that the person appointed as chair should be the most suitable person based on skill set and competency criteria.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 46.96 % |
| Against: | 53.04 % |

**Motion Lost**

**8.22 9.9 c and 9.10 Director's Term**

**Proposer – Corrimal**

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to remove the following clauses:

*9.9 (c) subject to clause 9.10, have previously held office as a State Councillor or Director for a cumulative period of more than nine years (either continuously or in separate periods) after the first date of election as a State Councillor or Director;*

*9.10 An Elected Director who has previously held office as a State Councillor or Director for a cumulative period of nine years or more (either continuously or in separate periods) after their first date of election, is eligible, notwithstanding clause 9.9(c), to stand and be elected if a continuous period of at least five years has lapsed from the date they last ceased to hold office.*

**Moved:** Morrie Gallina – Corrimal

The speaker reserved the right to reply.

**Seconded:** Matt Helm - City of Queanbeyan

The speaker commented that the sub-Branched were asked to encourage and mentor younger members into executive positions and did not understand why we wanted to place obstacles in their way instead of encouraging members to use their attributes to help the RSL NSW.

**Speaker against the motion:** Derek Leslie – Northern Metro DC

The speaker referred to the Bergin enquiry and the serving constraints to allow for change in leadership to ensure that the Board was refreshed to avoid a repeat of past mistakes. He believed that a 3-year term was sufficient experience to take on a Presidential role. This would be a way to encourage younger members to join the board and avoid having long standing board members.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 28.18 % |
| Against: | 71.82 % |

**Motion Lost**

John Hutcheson vacated the Chair and Ray James resumed the position of Chair

**8.23 Appendix C 12 Meetings – Technical Difficulties**

**Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify responses if technical difficulties arise during a General Meeting held at two or more places by amending Clause 12 of Appendix C to read;

*“If, either before or during the meeting, any technical difficulty causes one or more of the matters set out in clause 9 of this Appendix to be not satisfied, the Chair will adjourn the meeting until the difficulty is remedied.”*



**Moved:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC  
The speaker reiterated the supporting argument.

**Seconded:** Paul Bryant - City of Fairfield

**Speaker against the motion:** John Tramby - Gunnedah  
The speaker advised that technical challenges in the rural areas could last for days at a time.

**Speaker against the motion:** Todd Vercoe – Bowraville & District  
The speaker believed the continuance of the meeting should be based on the maintenance of a quorum.

**Right of reply:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC  
The speaker advised that this concept arose last year and was aimed at a meeting held in a larger place and not individually in multiple places.

**Results:**

For: 53.26 %

Against: 46.74 %

**Motion Lost**

**8.24 Appendix C 27 Voting on Resolutions – Electronic Voting**  
**Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the rules of voting at a general meeting by amending clause 27 of Appendix C to read:

*“Voting on resolutions and motions will take place at the meeting by electronic voting mechanisms, if available. If not available, voting will be by either:*

*(a) a show of hands; or*

*(b) a poll.*

*At the Chair’s discretion.”*

**Moved:** David Ingram – Far Western Metro DC  
The speaker believed that there should not be 3 options for voting.

**Seconded:** Brian Swan – Epping

No delegates spoke against the motion.

**Results:**

For: 84.07 %

Against: 15.93 %

**Motion Carried and Resolution passed**

**8.25 Appendix B 6 ANZAC House membership**  
**Proposer – Forster-Tuncurry**

That Clause 6 of the RSL NSW Constitution Appendix B be amended to read as follows:

6. *New members will be admitted and entered into the Membership Register by RSL NSW and recorded as being attached to ANZAC House through which the application was made and accepted, or to ANZAC House where the application was made with a request to be admitted as a member attached to ANZAC House.*

The Chair noted that Forster-Tuncurry had given an apology and were not in attendance at the meeting.

**Moved:** Rob Grant – Nowra

The speaker believed that the sub-Branch should have the continued right to check the new member credentials and ensure that they would be working for the sub-Branch and not against them. The right to refuse membership should remain.

**Seconded:** Robert Saelman - Matraville

**Speaker against the motion:** Brian Willey – Lower North Coast DC

The speaker believed that this would undermine the new streamlined process and believed that this motion should be rethought and that a SOP be written to address the problem and not a Constitutional amendment.

**Speaker against the motion:** Jason Hazell – RSL NSW Board

The speaker commented on the number of new members who had recently joined the league and the positive impact experienced by the sub-Branches. He raised the concern that this motion would slow down the process and become more bureaucratic.

**Speaker against the motion:** Matt Helm – City of Queanbeyan

The speaker believed this would offend some new members if they were questioned again on the legalities and qualification to become a member.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 21.79 % |
| Against: | 78.21 % |

**Motion Lost**

**8.26 Appendix B new Online Membership Applications**  
**Proposer – Forster-Tuncurry**

That Appendix B of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new clauses after clause 8 to cover online membership applications to read:

(a) a new heading ***On-Line Membership Applications***

(b) new clause 9. *Where an application for membership is made on-line the applicant is applying to join ANZAC House unless another sub-Branch is nominated in which case ANZAC House would refer the application to the nominated sub-Branch.*

(c) new clause 10. *The nominated sub-Branch once advised by ANZAC House, would endeavour to contact the applicant by email or telephone and advise the applicant that the application to join the nominated sub-Branch is provisional for a period of three (3) months pending the applicant contacting the sub-Branch to finalise the application.*

(d) new clause 11. *If the applicant agrees to new clause 10, the nominated sub-Branch would advise ANZAC House if the applicant is accepted. Following which:*

- a. *ANZAC House would arrange for the members Card and Badge to be forwarded to the nominated sub-Branch for presentation to the member; or*
- b. *Should the member fail to make contact with the nominated sub-Branch within 3 months the nominated sub-Branch would refer the members file to ANZAC House where the application was first made for their dealing.*

The Chair noted that Foster-Tuncurry had given an apology and were not in attendance at the meeting.

**Moved:** Gary Berman - Bega

The speaker was against the way new memberships were being processed by ANZAC House without any consultation with the sub-Branch and that the sub-Branch had to contact the new members to insist they visited the sub-Branch.

**Seconded:** David Arnold - Boolaroo Spears Point

**Speaker against the motion:** Phillip Bridie – RSL NSW Board

The speaker highlighted the increase in members as discussed earlier and discussed the burden on the volunteers to process new applications, while ANZAC House was equipped to handle the volume while ensuring the security of the data. Previous delays in approving membership led to applicants losing interest. The applicants were advised of consequences following false declarations. He questioned why the sub-Branches weren't proactively reaching out to new members inviting them to meetings, BBQs or events planned and making them feel welcome.

**Speaker against the motion:** Brian Willey – Lower North Coast DC

The speaker is against the motion and again recommends that this matter be captured in a SOP and not a Constitutional amendment.

**Speaker against the motion:** Todd Vercoe – Bowraville & District

The speaker commented that several veterans experienced mental health issues and applying for membership would have been a big step for them, pushing them into a corner insisting they visited a sub-Branch could easily see them turning away.

**Right of reply:** Gary Berman - Bega

The speaker advised that they were not objecting to the online process but believed that it would be a courtesy from ANZAC House to inform them of any new members.

**Results:**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| For:     | 23.91 % |
| Against: | 76.09 % |

**Motion Lost**

**Close**

RJ advised that the draft minutes would be available on the website by 22 November 2022.

RJ thanked Cumberland sub-Branch for their donation of \$2m towards the strategic plan.

RJ thanked Catherine McGregor for her role as MC.

The meeting was declared closed at 5:10PM.

**Confirmed**

Chair

Date



## APPENDIX B - MOTIONS REGISTER

**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    |
|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Motion 8 (2019)</b>   |   |           |
| "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" | <a href="#">Raise</a> issue of DVA fee schedules with Australian Medical Association (AMA)  | Completed |
|  | AMA confirmation fee schedule issue   | Completed |
|  | <a href="#">Raise issue</a> of DVA fee schedules with NVAC, to then be passed to ESORT  | Completed |
|  | <a href="#">Update</a> raising sub-Branch   | Completed |
|  | To close with sub-Branch blessing   | Ongoing   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> Medical fees under DVA being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.   |   |           |
| <b>Motion 9 (2019)</b>   |   |           |
| "That RSL NSW investigate excessive waiting time for veterans seeking psychiatric appointments"  | <a href="#">Contact</a> 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 |
|  | <a href="#">Raise</a> issue of DVA fee schedules with DVA via Deputy Commissioner's Forum   | Completed |
|  | <a href="#">Update</a> raising sub-Branch   | Completed |
|  | To close with sub-Branch blessing   | Ongoing   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> Waiting times for psychiatric appointments being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.   |   |           |
| <b>Motion 11 (2019)</b>  |   |           |
| "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 |
|  | <a href="#">Respond</a> to ATO  | Completed |
|  | <a href="#">Contact</a> with Minister   | Completed |
|  | <a href="#">Chase</a> ATO advice  | Completed |
|  | Update raising sub-Branch   | Completed |
|  | To close with sub-Branch blessing   | Ongoing   |

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| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.   |  |           |
| <b>Motion 20 (2019)</b>   |  |           |
| "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)"  | <a href="#">Draft letter</a> to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the issue.  | Completed |
|   | <a href="#">Response</a> from PM and FM on the issue   | Completed |
|   | Update raising sub-Branch  | Completed |
|   | To close with sub-Branch blessing  | Ongoing   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.   |  |           |
| <b>Motion 22 (2019)</b>   |  |           |
| "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"  | <a href="#">Draft letter</a> for NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA)/Law Society NSW regarding the issue                             | Completed |
|   | <a href="#">Response</a> from OVA  | Completed |
|   | Update raising sub-Branch  | Completed |
|   | To close with sub-Branch blessing  | Ongoing   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.  |  |           |
| <b>Motion 21 (2019)</b>   |  |           |
| 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 |
|   | <a href="#">Follow-up</a> with RSL National – 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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)   |   |             |
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| “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).”  | <a href="#">Contact</a> DVA – find out what the justification for current policy is | Completed   |
|  | Raise matter with NVAC/National   | Completed   |
|  | Raise issue with ESORT  | Completed   |
|  | <a href="#">Raise matter</a> with Minister for Veterans’ Affairs                    | Completed   |
|  | Raise matter with Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs                             | Completed   |
|  | Advocate for change through Budget process  | Ongoing     |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.   |   |             |
| Motion 2 (2021)  |   |             |
| 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) being informed that a veteran has been admitted to hospital;</li> <li>(b) being informed that a veteran is willing to be contacted by an RSL NSW wellbeing support officer through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) using a check box on the admission form to record the veteran’s wishes; and</li> <li>(ii) the hospital alerting an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer via a designated telephone number; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) clearance to visit the veteran during their stay in hospital using NSW Health protocols; and</li> <li>(d) assisting the veteran to connect to local support or services they need.</li> </ul> | Initial Contact   | Completed   |
|  | Initial Meeting   | Completed   |
|  | <a href="#">Initial contact</a> with OVA, Hunter Health, NSW Health and Legacy      | Completed   |
|  | Follow-up contact with <a href="#">OVA</a> and <a href="#">NSW Health</a>           | 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   |
|  |   |             |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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 Wintham sub-Branch in due course.   |   |             |
| Motion 3 (2021) - Closed   |   |             |
| 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,   | Initial Contact   | Completed   |
|  | Initial Meeting   | Completed   |
|  | VSPC <a href="#">support</a> for actions  | Completed   |
|  | Raised to NVAC  | Completed   |
|  | Raised to ESORT   | Completed   |

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| 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   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> Issue has been closed with Gresford sub-Branch.  |  |             |
| <b>Motion 4 (2021)</b>  |  |             |
| 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 <a href="#">past determinations</a> rejecting the application | Completed   |
|   | Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps   | Completed   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.  |  |             |
| <b>Motion 5 (2021)</b>  |  |             |
| 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 <a href="#">MCA</a> , Premier and Minister for Arts   | Completed   |
|   | Receive response from <a href="#">MCA</a> , <a href="#">Premier</a> and <a href="#">Minister for Arts</a>                      | 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     |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.   |  |             |
| <b>Motion 8.5 (2021)</b>  |  |             |
| THAT RSL NSW approach RSL National for the purposes of RSL National expanding the Charitable Purpose to include persons:<br><br>a. who are veterans within the definition in the <i>Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019</i> ; and<br><br>b. who have served or are serving as a member of the Armed Forces of:<br><br>(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   |
|   | <a href="#">Re-raise</a> matter to NVAC  | Completed   |
|   | Raise matter to RSL Australia Board  | Ongoing     |
|   | Approval by RSLA Board – End of September  | Not started |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;</li> <li>(iii) the United States of America; or</li> </ul> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(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</li> <li>(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.</li> </ul> |   |           |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> The motion is before the RSL National Board for consideration. If it is accepted, the Charitable Purpose of RSL Australia will be amended.  |   |           |
| <b>Motion 7.1 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>RSL as Peak Body</b><br>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.   | Raise with VSPC   | Completed |
|  | Hold National ESO Forum                                   | Completed |
|  | ESO Forum Report & Submission                             | Completed |
|  | Hold Follow-Up Forum                                      | Completed |
| <b>Motion 7.2 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>DVA Consultation with ESOs</b><br>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.   | Raise with VSPC   | Completed |
|  | Raise with DVA NSW Deputy Commissioners Forum             | Completed |
|  | Raise with National Veterans Affairs Committee (NVAC)     | Completed |
|  | Raise with ESORT  | Completed |
|  | Raise directly with Minister for Veterans' Affairs        | Completed |
|  | New ESORT and DVA Legislation Reform Consultation Process | Ongoing   |
| <b>Motion 7.3 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>Homelessness</b><br>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.  | Contact Ourimbah-Lisarow                                  | Completed |
|  | Sub-Branch to draft initial submission                    | Completed |
|  | Raise with VSPC   | Completed |
|  | Raise with NVAC   | Completed |
|  | Determine next steps with sub-Branch – 13 July 2022       | Ongoing   |

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| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.                   |   |           |
| <b>Motion 7.4 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>Solar Panel Service</b><br>That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) implement and provide a Solar Panel maintenance service for eligible veterans.  | Contact City of Queanbeyan  | Completed |
|  | Raise with VSPC   | Completed |
|  | Contact DVA/NSW Government  | Completed |
|  | Closed with sub-Branch – 11 August 2023   | Completed |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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.            |   |           |
| <b>Motion 7.5 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>Fund to Support Veterans at AAT</b><br>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.  | 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   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> City of Sydney proposed a solution to see sub-Branches undertake funding for support and assistance for veterans at AAT hearings. With sub-Branch representative overseas, next steps are TBD.  |   |           |
| <b>Motion 7.6 (2022)</b>   |   |           |
| <b>Advice to Seek Advocate Support</b><br>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.  | Contact City of Sydney  | Completed |
|  | Raise with VSPC   | Completed |
|  | Raise with NVAC/DC Forum  | Completed |
|  | Raise with DVA  | Completed |
|  | ESORT Decision  | Ongoing   |
| <b>Outcome Achieved:</b> 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. |   |           |