

The Returned & Services League of Australia (NSW Branch)

Title Update on Actions from previous Congresses

Last Updated 2 February 2024

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

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

Outcome Achieved: Response from Treasury clarifies that the cap only applies to a very small proportion of taxpayers that have very high total superannuation balances, that the income tax legislation applies to all taxpayers equally, and that there are no plans to revisit the current rules in respect of the taxation of military superannuation benefits received by members of Self-Managed Super Funds.		
Motion 20 (2019)		
“That the Returned and Services League of Australia calls on The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia, to transfer responsibility for the identification, protection and interpretation, of our wartime heritage along the Kokoda Trail from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)”	Draft letter to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the issue.	Completed
	Response from PM and FM on the issue	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Response from the Federal Government has reiterated that DFAT will continue to manage the protection and maintenance of the Kokoda Track. However, DFAT has committed to working with DVA under a \$10 million program to commemorate the bonds between Australia and Papua New Guinea on proposed projects, tourism, military heritage, health, safety and livelihoods.		
Motion 22 (2019)		
“That RSL NSW makes representations to the Law Society of NSW to approve Volunteer category practicing certificates for lawyers working pro bono with accredited veterans' advocacy centres and not just with community legal centres”	Draft letter for NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA)/Law Society NSW regarding the issue	Completed
	Response from OVA	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs and Law Society NSW determined that it was not possible to implement the motion as written under current legislation or under current requirements.		
Motion 21 (2019)		
That the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) request RSL National make representation to the Federal Government and Minister for Defence to recommend to the Governor General that the following amendment be made to the determination under the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951 - 1972 regulation: Members of the Merchant Navy / Mercantile Marine who registered for National Service, had that service deferred by the Minister and then had that capability of volunteering removed due to the nature of their Mercantile Marine service being in the public interest; satisfies the requirements applicable to be awarded the medal.	Contact with RSL National	Completed
	RSL National contact with Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal	Completed
	Follow-up with RSL National – 3 rd time – Advised by RSL National Board they would not raise matter further	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL National has determined that due to the number of previous reviews, they would not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW is working with Gresford sub-Branch to determine what steps will be taken next.		
Motion 35 (2018)		
“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).”	Contact DVA – find out what the justification for current policy is	Completed
	Raise matter with NVAC/National	Completed
	Raise issue with ESORT	Completed
	Raise matter with Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Ongoing

	Raise matter with Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: This matter is ongoing, with several National ESOs pressuring both the Government and the Opposition to introduce NLHC for all Reservists.		
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: (a) being informed that a veteran has been admitted to hospital; (b) being informed that a veteran is willing to be contacted by an RSL NSW wellbeing support officer through: (i) using a check box on the admission form to record the veteran's wishes; and (ii) the hospital alerting an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer via a designated telephone number; and (c) clearance to visit the veteran during their stay in hospital using NSW Health protocols; and (d) assisting the veteran to connect to local support or services they need.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Initial contact with OVA, Hunter Health, NSW Health and Legacy	Completed
	Follow-up contact with OVA and NSW Health	Ongoing
	Rollout to all LHDs through NSW Health Minister	Ongoing
	Comms to SBs advising of process	Not started
Outcome Achieved: Hunter New England Health District has made it clear they have a veteran identifier on their intake forms, and a suitably qualified and RSL-endorsed wellbeing support officers are 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.		
Motion 3 (2021)		
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, 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.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Raised to NVAC	Completed
	Raised to ESORT	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: The matter is currently being considered by ESORT. It should also be noted that an increase in TPI was part of the Federal Budget for FY22/23.		
Motion 4 (2021)		
That RSL NSW support the issuing of a second Vietnam Service medal, currently reserved for those veterans who served at least 180 days in country, to all Vietnam veterans, irrespective of time in country.	Initial Contact	Completed
	VSPC Approval for plan	Completed
	Raised at NVAC	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	NVAC determined not to raise the issue further, due to number of past determinations rejecting the application	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL National has determined that due to the number of previous reviews, they would not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW is working with Gresford sub-Branch to determine what steps will be taken next.		
Motion 5 (2021)		

That RSL NSW consult with the Premier of New South Wales to have the War Memorial situated on the marble wall in the entrance to the former Maritime Services Board building returned to its former glory by arranging the removal of a multi panelled painting which conceals the War Memorial.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Initial letters drafted to MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Completed
	Receive response from MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Ongoing
	Raise in face-to-face meeting with NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Completed
	Contact sub-Branch to determine next steps	Not started
Outcome Achieved: Thus far, no stakeholder has demonstrated support for this motion. RSL NSW continues its engagement with the NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs and will determine if there is a possible pathway forward.		
Motion 8.3 (2021)		
That RSL NSW develops a plan to facilitate recruiting in NSW for new Members.		
Outcome Achieved:		
Motion 8.4 (2021)		
That virtual Membership be adopted as an additional recruitment tool for RSL NSW.		
Outcome Achieved:		
Motion 9 (2021)		
<p>That RSL NSW approach RSL National for the purposes of RSL National expanding the Charitable Purpose to include persons:</p> <p>who are veterans within the definition in the <i>Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019</i>; and</p> <p>who have served or are serving as a member of the Armed Forces of:</p> <p>(i) any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;</p> <p>(ii) any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;</p> <p>(iii) the United States of America; or</p> <p>to whom (a) or (b) does not apply but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:</p> <p>(i) either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Force or the Armed Forces of those countries or places referred to in paragraph (b) above; or</p> <p>(ii) served as a member of the Armed Forces of another country or place which, during</p>	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Matter raised to NVAC	Completed
	Rewrite Initial paper	Completed
	Re-raise matter to NVAC	Completed
	Raise matter to RSL Australia Board	Ongoing

that time of conflict, was an ally of the Commonwealth.		
Outcome Achieved: The motion is before the RSL National Board for consideration. If it is accepted, the Charitable Purpose of RSL Australia will be amended.		
Motion 7.1 (2022)		
RSL as Peak Body That the RSL is the lead ex-service organisation (ESO) ensuring the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide are implemented, in collaboration with other ESOs.	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Hold National ESO Forum	Completed
	ESO Forum Report & Submission	Completed
	Hold Follow-Up Forum	Completed
Motion 7.2 (2022)		
DVA Consultation with ESOs That the RSL work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and other ESOs to ensure that DVA consults more effectively with ESOs, including through the implementation of adequate reporting, governance, and implementation processes.	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
Motion 7.3 (2022)		
Homelessness That RSL NSW prepare a business case for the Government, through the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, for addressing homelessness and the risks of homelessness within the Veteran Community by incorporating into law a statutory right to shelter and protection from homelessness, including an express statutory protection to acknowledge and manage the higher risk of veteran homelessness.	Contact Ourimbah-Lisarow	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Draft <i>Vulnerable People Bill</i> – including veterans	Completed
	Ourimbah-Lisarow notified. Met for discussion and to edit.	Completed
	Edits made and draft Bill returned	Completed
	Meeting for further discussion.	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL NSW has been working with the NSW government to improve accommodation supports for veterans. NSW government has not identified whether veterans will be included in the next homelessness strategy however they have expressed that there may not be a homelessness strategy.		
Motion 7.4 (2022)		
Solar Panel Service 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
Outcome Achieved: Discussion with OVA determined that this was not possible due to the estimated costs associated with providing all veterans with solar panels. In November 2023 the NSW government released further rebates for veterans and other identified cohorts.		
Motion 7.5 (2022)		
Fund to Support Veterans at AAT That RSL NSW establish a funding mechanism to provide assistance to veteran's who have appeals before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and require financial assistance to produce specialist medical	Contact City of Sydney	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Completed
	Raise with RSL NSW Finance Team	Ongoing

reports and pay for these medical specialists to appear at a Hearing where required.		
Outcome Achieved:		
Motion 7.6 (2022)		
	Contact City of Sydney	Completed
	Raise with VSPC	Ongoing
	Raise with NVAC/DC Forum	Ongoing
	Raise with DVA	Not started
Outcome Achieved:		
Motion 2 – Hospitalisation (2021) Wingham		
To Improve the Triage Process That RSL work with the Department of Health and Local Health District's to introduce optional boxes on LHD paperwork to voluntarily identify veterans upon hospitalisation for support to be provided by ESO's.	To liaise with sub-Branches	Completed
	Draft Endorsement Letter	Completed
	Contact sub-Branch about progress	Completed
	Letters sent to LHD Chiefs and Minister	Completed
	Update sub-Branch on outcome and request next steps.	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Hunter-New England has implemented this process. Further research and consultation with Wingham is required to understand the efficiency of this new administrative process. Further consultation with the government is required to determine whether or not Local Health District Chief's are willing to work with RSL to introduce this new plan.		

Motion 6.3 – Middle East Area of Operations Annual Commemoration (2023) Glenorie		
That RSL NSW lobby RSL Australia to establish the 11th of July annually as the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) National Commemorative Day, with the inaugural commemoration being 11 July 2024.	RSL NSW to liaise with RSLA	Completed
	RSLA to respond	Not started
	Draft endorsement letter	Not started
	Raised with Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Not started
	Raised with Governor-General	Not started
	Gazetted by Government	Not started
Outcome Achieved: Pending approval and endorsement from RSLA.		

Motion 6.4 – Australian Flag Protocol (2023)		
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.	Draft Email	Completed
	Summary of Flag Booklet	Completed
	Draft circular	Completed
	Sent to sub-Branches	Completed
Outcome Achieved: Sub-Branches now aware as to how the Australian flags should be flown and the official flags of the Commonwealth.		

Motion 7.1 – NSW Government Entitlements (2023)		
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.	Research	Completed
	Comparison between States and Territories	Completed
	Consultation with sub-Branch to request further information.	Completed
	Meet with OVA to determine whether further concessions are available	Ongoing
	Update sub-Branch	Not started
Outcome Achieved:		

DVA Fee Scheule		
RSL NSW to work with peak bodies across the health sector to highlight disparities and barriers which minimise veteran access to healthcare.	Research	Completed
	Consultation with AMA	Completed
	Consultation with APA	Completed
	Consultation with APS	Completed
	Roundtable with AMA, APA, APS	Completed
	RSL NSW internal strategy plan	Completed
	RSL inter-State branch strategy plan	Completed
	Launch media release	Not started
Outcome Achieved:		

Reclassify 4RAR		
RSL NSW to work with RSLA to encourage government to reclassify Malaysia 4RAR from 'peacekeeping' to 'active service'.	Research	Completed
	Conversation with members	Completed
	Meeting to discuss strategy with members	Ongoing
	RSLA response	Completed
	Raise with Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Not started
	Raise with Governor-General	Not started
	Update sub-Branch	Not started
	Launch media release	Not started
Outcome Achieved: Discussions will be held with sub-Branch in mid-February.		

Victoria Cross recommendation for Pte Norton		
RSL NSW to lobby RSLA to award Pte Norton with a Victoria Cross due to heroic actions in Vietnam.	Research	Ongoing
	Organise meeting at sub-Branch	Completed
	Reading Victoria Cross Regulations	Completed
	Draft letters: match actions to Victoria Cross Regulations	Ongoing
	Raise with Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Not started
	Raise with Governor-General	Not started
	Update sub-Branch	Not started
Outcome Achieved: Discussions will be held with sub-Branch in mid-February.		