

# 2020-21 Budget Estimates Hearing

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Shaun Leane MP**

Minister for Veterans

Friday 18 December 2020



Premier  
and Cabinet

# Portfolio Overview

The Victorian Government supports veterans wellbeing, recognition and acknowledgement of service. Initiatives aim to facilitate the successful transition to, and participation in civilian life. Initiatives include:



Delivery of **election commitments** and **advocacy** on national and intra-state issues



**Veteran employment** initiatives to better recognise and capitalise on the skills of our veterans in the public and private sector



Grants for **capital works, commemoration** and **education** projects, **war memorials** and programs that provide **welfare support** for veterans



Supporting **commemorative events** such as **ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day** and other significant anniversaries



Education initiatives such as the **Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize**



**History and heritage** initiatives to identify, access and protect our war heritage



Support for the **Victorian Veterans Council** and the **Shrine of Remembrance**



Engaging with the **Commonwealth Government** to ensure veterans are supported

# 2020/21 Victorian Budget

In 2020/21 the Government is committing **\$4.9 million** over four years to support Victorian veterans. This year's budget outlines initiatives including:

- **\$2.25 million** over 2 years to extend the Veterans Capital Works Grant Program.
- Almost **\$1.3 million** over 3 years to develop accommodation options for veterans with complex needs.
- **\$594,000** over 2 years to continue to deliver the Public Sector Veteran Employment Strategy
- A further **\$200,000** over 2 years to RSL Active
- **\$360,000** over 3 years to deliver the Government's Learning Firsthand commitment

This is an **increase of \$1.3 million** on last year's budget for the Veteran portfolio.

# 2019-20 Achievements – Supporting Veterans

- Exceeded the **Public Sector Veteran Employment Strategy** target to employ 540 veterans.
- Provided \$250,000 to the **Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Victorian Branch)** to support the welfare of its members as part of the Government's \$1 million over 4 years commitment
- Commenced the expansion of **Phoenix Australia's Centenary of Anzac Centre**, to provide mental health support for ADF personnel, veterans and first responders
- Delivered **veteran welfare information sessions** in metropolitan and regional locations to provide ex-service organisations with information about Victorian Government welfare programs and services.
- In 2019-20 we allocated over **\$2.3 million to 150 projects** for welfare, commemoration, education and capital works projects, and war memorial restorations.
- Allocated **\$2.2 million** to support ex-service organisations in response to COVID-19 to ensure veterans receive vital support, and funded establishment of the **Veteran Central (VetCen)** call centre to connect veterans to government and support services
- **Met or exceeded all BP3 measures**



# 2019-20 Commemorations

Every veteran story  
is important



# Victorian Veterans Employment and Skills Accreditation Roundtable

- Veterans' skills are poorly understood outside the military.
- Some Veterans have skills that are not recognised when they transition.
- Veterans who are younger and/or have less service time can be more vulnerable once they discharge to poor health, housing and employment outcomes.
- Twelve months after transitioning from the military, the **veteran unemployment rate is 8 per cent**. This statistic is pre-COVID-19 and likely to be higher.