

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Monday, 14 February 2022

SUPPORTING OUR VETERAN COMMUNITY

The Andrews Labor Government is boosting wellbeing support for veterans and their families as hearings recommence at the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Minister for Veterans Shaun Leane today announced the Labor Government is providing \$500,000 for trusted veteran welfare charity Melbourne Legacy to deliver additional tailored support to the veteran community over the next 18 months.

Melbourne Legacy will run a program that assesses the unique wellbeing needs of veterans and their families and connects them with referral partners, such as ex-service and community organisations.

The program, which will also receive \$500,000 worth of in-kind support from Melbourne Legacy, will offer a range of activities for veterans and their families including equine therapy, family days and networking events.

Two new Veteran Liaison Officers will deliver the program by tapping into established networks throughout the ex-service community across Victoria to reach veterans and families who are in need of support.

The program will build on support already available to veterans and their families, including crisis and suicide support. Details of the services available can be found at defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/support.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is examining systemic issues and common themes among defence members and veterans who have died by suicide or experienced mental health challenges. The next hearings are in Sydney from Monday 14 February.

Anyone can make a submission to the Royal Commission. Information on how to do so, and how to access support, is available at defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Veterans Shaun Leane

“The Royal Commission will be important but challenging for many veterans, and this extra funding will enable Melbourne Legacy to continue their incredible work supporting our veteran community.”

Quote attributable to Melbourne Legacy Chief Executive Officer Jo Moloney

“We are proud to be working alongside the Victorian Government to provide crucial support to our veteran community and alleviate some of the stress and anxiety raised by the Royal Commission.”