



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **RSL commends budget support for veterans**

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has welcomed the Federal Budget initiatives to support service veterans, particularly the more than \$100 million in funding for mental health services for veterans and their families.

RSL National President I Greg Melick said the RSL had lobbied extensively over the past 15 months to secure the additional mental health care support and it was pleasing the Government had recognised this urgent need.

Major General Melick said the increased and targeted funding would strengthen the capacity of the healthcare system to provide timely and high-quality services to veterans and their families.

“This is urgently needed and the RSL is actively involved in the Open Arms program which will receive priority funding, as well as veterans’ employment initiatives.

“The RSL offers a range of programs to support the mental well-being of serving personnel, veterans and their families and these are available to all members. The additional funding announced in the budget will complement this support.”

General Melick also commended other budget funding initiatives that will assist the veteran community.

“The broadening of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program and the additional resources being provided to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, as well as the range of Medicare enhancements for veterans will all be of benefit.

“Australia’s veterans and their families have provided great service to our nation. But often this comes at significant mental and other costs, so it is important the appropriate assistance and support is provided.

“The latest budget initiatives recognise this and the RSL welcomes them,” General Melick said.

**ENDS**

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