



MEDIA STATEMENT

13 November 2020

RSL Victoria media statement regarding ADF Inquiry outcome

The Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) says all personnel suspected of alleged war crimes in Afghanistan are entitled to due process and the presumption of innocence.

This statement comes after the Government's announcement of the pending appointment of a special investigator on the release of the Inspector-General's report, and this statement aligns with views of RSL National and the other state and territory branches of the RSL.

RSL Victoria views the allegations as extremely serious and notes that speculation surrounding the inquiry has impacted adversely on veterans who served in Afghanistan and their families.

As an ex-service organisation, RSL Victoria is focused on supporting the health and wellbeing of all current and ex-serving members of the ADF.

RSL Victoria State President, Dr Rob Webster OAM, said *"the RSL has always been there for veterans, and at this time the wellbeing of veterans directly and indirectly involved remains our priority"*.

RSL Victoria offers [welfare, advocacy](#) and [wellbeing support](#). RSL Victoria can also help connect current and ex-serving members of the ADF with counselling and mental health support.

If you are a current or former member of the ADF and are in need of support, please contact RSL Victoria between the hours of 9-5 Monday to Friday, through our [Veteran Central \(VETCEN\)](#) program via **1300 MILVET (1300 645 838)**.

For 24hr mental health support, please contact [Open Arms](#) veterans and family counselling service on 1800 011 046

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