



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

28 November 2020

### **RSL Victoria members vote to adopt policy of publicly supporting the call for a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide at 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

The motion to adopt a policy of publicly supporting the call for a Royal Commission into veteran suicide was introduced by the Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch and seconded by the Nathalia Picola Sub-Branch.

The decision was then made by a majority vote of Sub-Branch delegates on Saturday 28 November, at the Victorian RSL's first online Annual Conference. In total more than 230 Delegates from 84 Sub-Branches participated in Saturday's vote.

Following today's decision, RSL Victoria will now begin advocating to government and in the media for a Royal Commission.

Re-elected RSL Victoria State President Dr Robert Webster OAM said this is a significant decision by the members.

"The strength of the RSL lies within its people, the veterans for whom we exist and are governed by. The membership have spoken and therefore we will now be publicly calling for a Royal Commission into veteran suicide." Dr Webster said.

"Suicide is a significant issue within our society, and always has been. There are particular times in a veteran's life when they can be more vulnerable than others. It is critical that we get to the bottom of the issues at hand quickly and put measures in place to substantially reduce the risk of suicide in the veteran population." Dr Webster said.

ENDS

**Media contact:** For more information, or to arrange an interview email Jessica Antcliff – [jantcliff@rslvic.com.au](mailto:jantcliff@rslvic.com.au)