

ANNEXURE 2 – Potential Implementation Body

1. RSL Australia suggests that the recommendations of the reports of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide are implemented by a body specifically established for that purpose. The RSL believes this body should be independent and established by an Act of Parliament. The RSL suggests this role could be fulfilled by a reinstated National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention, with responsibility for:
 - Inquiring into the circumstances of relevant defence and veteran deaths by suicide
 - Working collaboratively with State and Territory Coroners to understand issues contributing to defence and veteran deaths by suicide
 - Maintaining a record of relevant deaths by suicide notified to the Commissioner
 - Promoting understanding of suicide risks for defence members and veterans, and opportunities for improved wellbeing support
 - Making findings and recommendations addressing defence member and veteran wellbeing and suicide prevention strategies, and any policy, administrative or structural reforms that may be required
 - Reviewing action taken in response to any findings or recommendations the Royal Commission makes, and
 - Reporting on how they are implementing the recommendations made in the Royal Commission's Final Report.
2. The National Commissioner could be supported by a National Office that leads the development and implementation of the priorities recommended by the Royal Commission. The RSL believes this National Officer and Commissioner could sit within the Attorney-General's Office (independently) and take advantage of the Regulatory powers of the AGO. The National Commissioner could also provide a bi-annual report straight to Parliament.
3. In essence, the RSL proposes an implementation body that combines the roles of the previous Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention, with a body similar to the National Office for Child Safety, which was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.