



Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Thursday, 7 August 2014

VA055

RESTORATION OF VETERAN ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FUNDING DELIVERED

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, today announced \$3.8 million in funding to deliver important support services to Australia's ex-service community.

"The Abbott Government has restored advocacy and support funding for the veteran community which was cut by Labor. The 2014-15 budget provides an additional \$1 million per year to the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) programme over the forward estimates. This funding will support the work of veterans' advocates in helping veterans, war widows and widowers to access important information and services," Senator Ronaldson said.

"This year 141 organisations have shared in \$3.8 million in funding, ensuring the veteran community can continue to get the help and advice they need, when they need it, and from the people they trust."

"BEST is the glue which holds the ex-service community together and I'm pleased the Government can continue to support this invaluable work," he said.

"The additional \$1 million in funding will support the work of veterans' advocates, welfare and pension officers right across the country and provide them with greater certainty into the future."

Senator Ronaldson said the Government had consulted extensively with Ex-Service Organisations to determine how best to spend the funding.

"We've listened to feedback from the Ex-Service Organisation Roundtable and as a result, more support will be made available to cover out-of-pocket expenses for volunteers and increased consideration will be given to an organisation's welfare work when calculating funding," he said.

BEST grants help ESOs fund a range of veteran support measures including salaries for trained advocates and pension staff, and administrative needs, including essential office supplies such as computer equipment and internet access.

For more information on DVA grants visit www.dva.gov.au/grants or call 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for regional callers.

Editors' note: A list of grant recipients is attached, figures in table are GST inclusive. All dollar amounts in media release are GST exclusive.

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Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546)

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BEST Grants 2014-15 - Round 16

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Legacy Club of Canberra Inc	Deakin	Canberra	\$25,647.38
Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation ACT Inc	Page	Fraser	\$74,782.45
ACT total grants - 2			\$100,429.83

NEW SOUTH WALES			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Cardiff RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Cardiff	Charlton	\$7,007.40
VVAA Hunter Valley / Central Coast	Blue Haven	Dobell	\$8,413.83
LAVAS Inc	Springwood	Macquarie	\$30,738.79
Moruya RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Moruya	Eden-Monaro	\$1,600.00
Ashfield RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Ashfield	Grayndler	\$20,633.00
VVAA St Marys Outpost Sub-branch Inc	St Mary's	Lindsay	\$25,302.00
APPVA Inc (NSW office)	Waterman	Lyne	\$61,286.33
Armidale RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Armidale	New England	\$7,032.92
Far North Coast (NSW) Sub-branch Inc VVA of Australia	Goonellabah	Page	\$40,934.04
Woy Woy Ettalong Hardy's Bay RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Ettalong	Robertson	\$15,432.00
VVP&P Assoc of Aust (NSW Branch Inc)	Granville	Parramatta	\$260,593.09
Tamworth RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Tamworth	New England	\$29,227.76
VVPPA of Aust Central Coast Sub-branch Inc	Ettalong Beach	Robertson	\$20,586.20
Huskisson RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Huskisson	Gilmore	\$4,347.50
Tweed Heads and Coolangatta RSL Sub-branch	Tweed Heads	Richmond	\$33,405.97
Coffs Harbour Legacy Welfare Inc	Coffs Harbour	Cowper	\$16,696.00
Integrated Serviceperson's Association of Australia	Cootamundra	Riverina	\$19,135.95
Avalon Beach RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Avalon Beach	Mackellar	\$5,707.85
Newcastle Legacy Fund (Port Stevens Group)	Mayfield	Newcastle	\$39,917.19
Port Stephens Veteran Network (Sponsored by Newcastle Legacy Fund (Port Stevens Group))	Tanilba Bay	Paterson	\$28,476.66

Ourimbah Lisarow RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Ourimbah	Dobell	\$3,631.00
Assoc of Far North Coast Ex-Service Orgs	Lismore	Page	\$56,558.36
Dungog RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Dungog	Paterson	\$3,999.00
RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Sydney	Sydney	\$103,813.07
VESPAS (Sponsored by Lachlan Legacy)	Cowra	Hume	\$15,032.58
Illawarra Veteran's Entitlement Service Inc	Jamberoo	Gilmore	\$36,200.00
Sydney Legacy	Sydney	Sydney	\$177,650.11
Newcastle & Hunter Region Vietnam Veterans Inc	Wallsend	Charlton	\$13,646.90
VVPPA (NSW Branch) Hastings Manning Macleay Sub-branch	Port Macquarie	Lyne	\$19,100.47
Macarthur Veterans Information Services (Sponsored by VVAA Macarthur Subbranch Inc)	Minto	Werriwa	\$22,449.90
PVAA Inc (National)	Belmont	Shortland	\$12,242.60
NAA Inc Rooty Hill Sub-Section	Whalan	Chifley	\$4,957.60
Maitland RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Maitland	Hunter	\$8,958.00
The Entrance Long Jetty RSL Subbranch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Long Jetty	Dobell	\$16,528.14
War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd	Sydney	Sydney	\$58,458.84
Coffs Harbour RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Coffs Harbour	Cowper	\$1,750.00
North Bondi RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	North Bondi	Wentworth	\$46,907.21
Vet Centre Mid Nth Coast	Sawtell	Cowper	\$16,479.21
Hunter Legacy Appeals Fund	East Maitland	Hunter	\$8,407.34
Ryde City & Districts VVAA NSW	West Ryde	Bennelong	\$15,760.68
Toronto RSL Subbranch (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Toronto	Charlton	\$17,522.80
VC Syd Northern Beaches Inc	Forestville	Warringah	\$21,288.88
Air Dispatch Assoc Aust Inc	Mt Kuring-gai	Berowra	\$29,906.05
Mosman RSL Subbranch	Mosman	Warringah	\$864.00
Kurri Kurri RSL Subbranch NSW (Sponsored by RSL NSW)	Kurri Kurri	Hunter	\$7,029.85
NSW total grants - 45			\$1,395,617.06

NORTHERN TERRITORY			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (NT Branch)	Freds Pass	Lingiari	\$9,400.00
Darwin RSL Sub-branch	Darwin	Solomon	\$8,900.00

Palmerston RSL Subbranch (Sponsored by RSL SA)	Palmerston	Solomon	\$23,266.63
NT total grants - 3			\$41,566.63

QUEENSLAND			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Aust Army Aviation Association Inc	Brookfield	Ryan	\$2,107.00
RSL (Qld Branch) Manly-Lota Sub-branch	Manly	Bonner	\$13,525.20
Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub-branch	Cooroy	Wide Bay	\$11,972.78
Redlands RSL Sub-branch	Cleveland	Bowman	\$54,367.82
Submarines Assoc of Aust (Qld Branch) Inc	Jimboomba	Wright	\$1,618.46
Gaythorne RSL Sub-branch Inc	Michelton	Ryan	\$11,238.21
Defence Force Welfare Association (Qld Branch Inc)	Enoggera	Brisbane	\$7,163.60
VVAA Bundaberg and District Sub-branch	Bundaberg	Hinkler	\$3,432.00
Beenleigh & District RSL Sub-branch	Mt Warren Park	Forde	\$3,941.73
RSL (QLD) Sandgate Sub-branch Inc	Sandgate	Lilley	\$29,486.92
VSAS Aust Inc Toowong Branch	Toowong	Brisbane	\$25,454.72
Armed Services Assistance Centre Inc	New Farm	Brisbane	\$78,456.40
Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch Inc	Currumbin	McPherson	\$25,373.37
VVF QLD Branch Inc	Nerang	Moncrieff	\$120,723.31
Ipswich Veteran Support Group (Sponsored by Ipswich RSL Sub-branch Inc)	Ipswich	Blair	\$12,374.63
RSL (Qld Branch) Toowoomba United Subbranch	Toowoomba	Groom	\$10,066.00
Lowood RSL Sub-branch	Lowood	Blair	\$66,737.65
VVF Townsville Inc	Townsville	Herbert	\$13,396.49
Sherwood / Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch Inc	Corinda	Moreton	\$20,690.42
Surfers Paradise RSL Sub-branch Inc	Surfers Paradise	Moncrieff	\$61,015.26
National Servicemen's Combined Central RSL Sub-branch Inc	Frenchville	Capricornia	\$5,639.58
The Legacy Fund of Brisbane	South Brisbane	Griffith	\$33,104.47
VVAA Hervey Bay City Sub-branch	Pialba	Hinkler	\$43,232.00
Gold Coast Legacy Club Inc	Labrador	Fadden	\$2,395.67
Townsville RSL Sub-branch Inc	Hermit Park	Herbert	\$41,986.00
RSL QLD	Fortitude Valley	Brisbane	\$153,186.69
VVAA Townsville Sub-branch Inc	Kirwan	Herbert	\$12,173.00
Runaway Bay RSL Sub-branch Inc	Runaway Bay	Fadden	\$960.00
Legacy Club of Fraser Coast and Country Burnett	Maryborough	Wide Bay	\$15,376.00

Gladstone RSL	Gladstone	Flynn	\$5,706.11
RSL (Qld Branch) Pine Rivers Dist Sub-branch	Kallangur	Dickson	\$6,383.00
RSL Qld Edmonton Subbranch Inc	Edmonton	Kennedy	\$9,778.62
TP Disabled Ex Servicepersons Assoc (Townsville) Inc	South Townsville	Herbert	\$12,051.33
Beachmere RSL Sub-branch	Beachmere	Longman	\$2,121.99
RSL of Aust Banyo Sub-branch	Banyo	Lilley	\$3,700.00
Tewantin Noosa RSL Sub-branch	Tewantin	Wide Bay	\$11,448.00
Hervey Bay RSL Subbranch Inc	Pialba	Hinkler	\$40,631.51
APPVA Inc QLD Branch	Hermit Park	Herbert	\$66,228.02
VVAA (Qld Branch) Bris Nth Inc	Kallangur	Dickson	\$3,037.00
Samford RSL Subbranch	Samford	Dickson	\$12,637.44
TPI Ex-Servicemen & Women (Qld) Gold Coast Region TPI Centre Inc	Surfers Paradise	Moncrieff	\$5,224.60
VVAA QLD	Burpengary	Longman	\$7,465.00
VSC Lockyer-Brisbane Valley Inc	Laidley	Wright	\$22,721.30
Mackay VS Group Inc	South Mackay	Dawson	\$5,927.00
Qld total grants - 44			\$1,096,256.28

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Beachvale Sub Section of the NAA (SA) Inc	Christie Downs	Kingston	\$5,031.00
Ex-Service Persons Pension Office (SA) (Sponsored by Beachvale Sub Section of the NAA (SA) Inc)	Christie Downs	Kingston	\$6,374.00
RAAF Assoc Mitcham Branch Inc	Hawthorn	Boothby	\$5,776.00
SA RSL State Branch	Adelaide	Adelaide	\$131,996.15
VVAA SA Branch	Adelaide	Adelaide	\$18,768.00
Legacy Adelaide	Adelaide	Adelaide	\$52,861.09
Vietnam Veterans Federation SA Branch Inc	Warradale	Boothby	\$49,338.38
SEVIC (SA) (Sponsored by RSL Mt Gambier Sub Branch & Memorial Club)	Mount Gambier	Barker	\$6,249.40
McLaren Vale & District RSL Sub-branch Inc	McLaren Vale	Mayo	\$3,328.60
SA total grants - 9			\$279,722.63

TASMANIA

Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
TPI Ex-Servicemen and Women (TAS Branch)	Battery Point	Denison	\$12,362.98
VVAA (Tas) Inc	Glen Huon	Franklin	\$1,957.00
TESSA Inc (Tas)	Hobart	Denison	\$91,386.23
TAS total grants - 3			\$105,706.21

VICTORIA			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Defence Force Welfare Association Victoria Branch Inc	South Bank	Melbourne Ports	\$2,373.50
Legacy Melbourne	Melbourne	Melbourne	\$30,221.61
APPVA VIC Branch Inc	Ringwood	Deakin	\$24,599.00
Wimmera Veterans Centre (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Horsham	Mallee	\$37,589.80
Western Suburbs VSC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Melton	Gorton	\$24,666.05
West Gippsland VWC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Drouin	McMillan	\$1,580.00
VVAA Advocate Program (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Sale	Gippsland	\$32,012.09
Swan Hill & District Vet Info Centre (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Swan Hill	Mallee	\$16,316.89
Surf Coast RVC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Belmont	Corangamite	\$64,563.93
Sunraysia RVC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Mildura	Mallee	\$17,296.87
South West VC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Warrnambool	Wannon	\$6,250.00
Southern Peninsula VC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Rosebud	Flinders	\$53,432.08
South Eastern VC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Oakleigh	Chisholm	\$4,188.82
Mitchell VC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Seymour	McEwen	\$3,249.00
Melbourne V&SSC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	South Bank	Melbourne Ports	\$80,405.73
Leongatha VWC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Leongatha	McMillan	\$82,730.95
Hume Vet Info Centre (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Wodonga	Indi	\$49,295.36
Goulburn Valley VS (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Shepparton	Murray	\$3,689.28
Echuca Moama VSC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Echuca	Murray	\$5,870.00
Gippsland VWC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Sale	Gippsland	\$57,684.55
Central VIC VSC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Bendigo	Bendigo	\$81,642.90
Casey RVWC (Sponsored by RSL VIC)	Cranbourne	Holt	\$3,191.60
Ballarat RSL Subbranch Inc	Ballarat	Ballarat	\$8,610.04
Carry On (Vic)	Flinders Lane	Melbourne	\$13,500.00
VIC total grants - 24			\$704,960.03

WESTERN AUSTRALIA			
Recipient	Location	Electorate	Amount \$
Defence Force Welfare Association (WA Branch) Inc	Karrakatta	Curtin	\$8,643.40
Perth Legacy	South Perth	Curtin	\$124,006.75

Partners of Veterans Assoc WA Inc	Perth	Perth	\$1,990.00
Australian Navy in Vietnam Veterans' Welfare Assoc of WA (Inc)	East Fremantle	Fremantle	\$10,927.00
Australian Flying Corps & Royal Aust Airforce Assoc (WA Div) Inc	Bull Creek	Tangney	\$2,525.00
Vietnam Logistic Support Veterans Assoc WA (Inc)	Yangebup	Fremantle	\$6,760.00
RSL WA	Perth	Perth	\$153,128.67
Mandurah RSL Sub-branch (Sponsored by RSL WA)	Mandurah	Brand	\$3,239.60
Northern Suburbs VSC (Sponsored by RSL WA)	Quinns Rocks	Pearce	\$9,311.69
Legacy Fund of Fremantle Inc	Fremantle	Fremantle	\$4,945.90
TPD Veterans of WA Inc	Rockingham	Brand	\$2,030.00
WA total grants - 11			\$327,508.01
NATIONAL total grants 141			\$4,051,766.68*

*GST inclusive