

RSL WODEN VALLEY SUB-BRANCH



Current Items of Interest

29 July 22

From : AWM Facebook page



Australian War Memorial

22 July at 11:15 · 🌐

Yesterday, we were honoured to welcome Second World War veteran, Mr Les Cook, to the Last Post Ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Kokoda trail campaign.

Les enlisted with his father into the Army in 1940. To be able to enlist, both lied about their ages. His father put his age down by four years, and Les put his up by four. Les was in fact just 17 years of age on enlistment. Les served with the 2/14th Battalion in North Africa, Papua including Kokoda, New Guinea and Borneo. He also served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan.

Learn more about the campaign: <https://www.awm.gov.au/papua-campaign>







The Hon Stephen Jones MP
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services

The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Veterans Affairs' and Defence Personnel

MEDIA RELEASE

25 July 2022

EXPOSURE DRAFT LEGISLATION: TAXATION OF MILITARY SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS

The Albanese Government is introducing legislation to ensure that no veteran pays higher income tax because of the Federal Court decision in *Commissioner of Taxation v Douglas* (the *Douglas* decision). A draft bill, *Treasury Laws Amendment (Measures for a later sitting) Bill 2022: Taxation of military superannuation benefits*, and associated draft explanatory material, have been released for public consultation.

The *Douglas* decision found that certain veterans' invalidity pension payments in the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) and Military Superannuation Benefits (MSB) schemes are superannuation lump sums for income tax purposes rather than superannuation income stream benefits.

The draft legislation confirms the lump sum tax treatment for affected members of the DFRDB and MSB. The Government's approach means that affected veterans in the DFRDB and MSB schemes will not only retain the income tax benefits of the *Douglas* decision but also retain the resulting benefits of changes in their taxable income, such as Family Tax Benefit entitlements and the childcare subsidy.

While the veteran community has broadly welcomed the *Douglas* decision, and many veterans have benefited from the decision, the Government is concerned that a number of veterans are facing higher end of year tax liabilities.

Therefore, the Government will also introduce a non-refundable tax offset to prevent any adverse income tax outcomes for affected veterans in the DFRDB and MSB schemes. This will reverse higher end of year tax liabilities that would have occurred for some of these veterans and enable the ATO and CSC to include the impact of the new offset in determining fortnightly tax withholding, in order to address higher withholding that has occurred due to the *Douglas* decision. This offset will be for those veterans adversely affected by the Court's decision, in MSB and DFRDB schemes that started on or after 20 September 2007, and will apply retrospectively as well as prospectively.

The Government has also decided to extend these changes to Spouse and Children's pensions paid to a spouse or child following the death of a member of a DFRDB or MSB scheme affected by the *Douglas* decision to ensure these beneficiaries are no worse off.

The draft Bill also retrospectively and prospectively reverses the impact of the *Douglas* decision in relation to all schemes other than the invalidity benefits and death benefits for beneficiaries of invalidity pensioners paid from the DFRDB and MSB schemes that commence on or after 20 September 2007. This will ensure that payments in all other schemes that may have been within the wider scope of the Court's decision will continue to be taxed as superannuation income stream benefits, which is consistent with the intent of the current superannuation tax law.

The draft Bill reflects the Government's commitment to ensure veterans are not left worse off due to the *Douglas* decision and that veterans who benefited from the decision retain these outcomes.

Submissions are invited by email to superannuation@treasury.gov.au. More information about the consultation process is available on the Treasury [website](#).

Submissions close on 5 August 2022.

Ends

Media contact: Tom Iggulden (Jones) : 0448 081 191 | tom.iggulden@treasury.gov.au

Stephanie Mathews (Keogh) : 0407 034 485 | stephanie.mathews@defence.gov.au



Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs ✓

20 July at 15:30 · 🌐

With the recent indexation of pensions, many veterans and families may have noticed an increase to some of their veteran pension payments.

If you have received a letter regarding income support indexation and have questions about your payments, please email income.support.general.enquiries.sa@dva.gov.au for advice or visit <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support>



EDDISON DAY CLUB

“ Although only very few volunteers and members of the Eddison Day Club have over the past few months, at times only two, been coming to the Canberra Irish Club on a Friday for lunch, we had been hoping that more would venture out and attend. The latest wave of COVID-19 infections from the new variants are increasing the cases in the ACT and the states. The Canberra Irish Club has informed us that they have not reported any cases in the last few weeks. We had, a few weeks ago, four of the lunch attendees test positive. Although it is not readily definitive that these cases were infective at the Canberra Irish Club, it has made them and others hesitant to return. As mentioned before, we can't expect to have guest speakers or entertainers come with so few being there in the audience.

Following consultation with several of the now inactive management committee, it is clear that there is not a great prospect of many people returning in the immediate future due to the rapid increase in cases of COVID-19 everywhere. The only solution is at present to keep up the 'phone calls by those members and volunteers, to the small group that they were assigned in March 2020 after the first closure. If we can maintain regular contact with these people, they feel less isolated. There is regular contact by other groups, within the Club, outside of those groups. We also think that it is also important that those who do attend on Friday for lunch do not feel that they have been neglected if there is nobody there to greet them.

The Eddison Day Club is an integral and long-term section of the welfare area of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and it would be a shame for it to disappear.

On a sad note, the death occurred on 18th July of Mr. George Harris who used to attend the Eddison Day Club up until he moved to 'RSL LifeCare' at Sir Leslie Morshead Village in Lyneham. He was 93.

Regards

Peter Sutton

Vice President Welfare



Woden Valley Sub Branch



CALL to ARMS – We need Welfare Volunteers!

Over the past two years the ranks of our volunteers have diminished. COVID-19 took its toll by halting all group activities and home visits. As COVID restrictions ease, we are keen to re-establish the connections with members and need your help to do this.



How can you help?

- We need to re-establish our Home, Hospital and Residential Aged Care Visiting Groups to maintain contact with our older and frail members through visits or regular phone calls
- Coffee catch-ups with members
- Assisting with commemorative and special events
- Contributing and editing articles for our publications
- Assisting with Day Club weekly fun activities or outings
- Archiving, library services or assisting the office staff
- Assisting with transport
- Organising recreational or social activities
- Helping raise funds through the ANZAC Day and poppy appeals
- Assisting with delivery of Christmas Cards and gifts to our oldest members
- Attend presentations for volunteers at the sub-branch on relevant topics to keep up to date with information

These are some of the opportunities for volunteers and other suggestions are always welcome.

What is needed to be a Volunteer?

Firstly, your genuine interest in people and your investment of time and energy in their well-being.

Each member of our volunteer team must be prepared to abide by our privacy and confidentiality policies and apply for the Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) certification (at no cost to you).

Our volunteers are highly regarded, not just by RSL, but by those who receive their care and attention and by the community at large.

We would also welcome our former volunteers to let us know if they are still willing and able to offer their services.

Please contact the Welfare Office by email: welfare@rslwoden.org.au

or

phone: 6285 1931 on Tuesday or Wednesday.

We would like to hear from you!





Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling ✓

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As the cool winter weather continues, COVID-19 cases are expected to rise. It's important that we take steps to reduce the spread and lessen the impact of COVID-19 in our community.

Let's continue to practice COVID smart behaviours, including:

- wear a face mask when you're unable to socially distance
- maintain good hand hygiene
- stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations
- stay home if you're not well, even if you return a negative COVID-19 test result

This will help protect those most vulnerable from the rising cases across Australia.

Find information and resources 📌 <https://www.openarms.gov.au/living-well/life-covid-19>

COVID smart behaviours



Wear a face mask



Good hand hygiene



Stay up to date with vaccinations



Stay home if you're unwell



Get tested if you have symptoms

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families Counselling

1800 011 046
OpenArms.gov.au

Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards Now Open

Nominations for the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards are now open!

Canberrans are encouraged to nominate individuals and businesses that create a more inclusive Canberra for people with disability for the 2022 Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards, which recognise businesses, organisations and individuals who have made our city a place which welcomes, supports and encourages people with disability to pursue their dreams.

There are 13 awards spread out over four categories this year. The categories include:

- Recognising people with disability who are leaders in inclusion
- Excellence in community access and inclusion
- Achieving inclusion through supporting the independence and wellbeing of people with disability

Championing Rights, Protection and Justice

I'm honoured to share that the Championing Rights, Protection and Justice award has been named after Sue Salthouse in recognition of her fierce advocacy to create a more equitable world. *The Sue Salthouse Award for Championing Human Rights and Equality* will recognise other passionate people across our community who are making a true difference to create a future that works in a social framework, one which fully appreciates the unique skills and experience we all have to contribute across our community.

If you know anyone who deserves to be recognised for their dedication to inclusion, accessibility and equity across Canberra, please nominate them at: [Awards - Community Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au)

The Inclusion Awards will be presented at a gala event on 7 December with current Australian of the Year, Mr Dylan Alcott OAM attending as keynote speaker.

If you require more information or would like to discuss the awards, please contact my office on DAVIDSON@act.gov.au

Kind regards,



Emma Davidson MLA
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Justice Health
Minister for Disability
Minister for Veterans and Seniors
Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services
ACT Greens Member for Murrumbidgee





COFFEE CATCH UP EVERY FRIDAY 10-12

Members and guests are welcome to join us for a chat and enjoy freshly brewed coffee & cake with former service mates. Every Friday from 10 to 12 in The Corey Room, Level 2A, of the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.

Please note that the Eddison Day Club is currently meeting on only a very casual basis for lunch at midday Fridays.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or access to our services

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Visit us on the web at
www.rslwoden.org.au

Office hours are
9am-3pm Mon-Fri

PS.

**Ever lost your copy of
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Interest or The Serviceman?***

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readily available to read on
our website**

www.rslwoden.org.au