

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP
Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



Monday, 20 November 2023

HONOURING THE SERVICE OF VICTORIAN VETERANS

The Allan Labor Government is honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans in Victoria, with new wellbeing supports and grant programs to make sure veterans receive the support they deserve for everything they have given to the state.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman today announced applications opening for two programs supporting building and facility upgrades for community organisations, as well as the recipients of the *Victoria Remembers and Anzac Day Proceeds Fund* grants.

The *Veterans Capital Works* program gives local organisations funding to upgrade their buildings and facilities, for Victoria's veterans. Interested organisations can apply for grants from \$5,000 up to \$50,000 for projects that can be completed within a year.

This program has supported 55 projects since 2021 to complete building and facility upgrades, including Paynesville RSL Sub-Branch which received \$50,000 to upgrade their club building.

The *Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour* program provides grants of up to \$30,000 for projects that restore community war memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour and closes on 29 January.

The *Anzac Day Proceeds Fund* supports ex-service organisations to deliver a range of activities that boost the wellbeing of veterans, with 19 organisations supported to continue their work delivering important services to veterans and their families.

Inverloch RSL Sub-Branch has been awarded \$36,000 for the health and wellbeing of its veterans by initiating a program at the Broadbeach Inverloch Health Centre, engaging veterans with physical activity at a local gym.

Grants have also been awarded to 27 projects through the *Victoria Remembers* grant program, which provides grants of up to \$30,000 for projects that honour veterans' service or educate Victorians on veterans' contributions.

Ararat Legacy has been awarded a grant for the "Legacy in Schools" program, which includes the ANZAC Trip to the Shrine of Remembrance and Legacy Junior Public Speaking Awards, in partnership with regional schools Ararat Marian, Stawell, Lake Bolac, Beaufort Secondary Colleges and Avoca Primary School.

Quote attributable to Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman

"These grants provide organisations with support for their work honouring and supporting the veteran community and deliver meaningful projects right across the State."

Quote attributable to Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale

"Volunteer-run community groups do vital work to conserve and maintain war memorials, honour rolls, and the avenues of honour – we're proud to support them."

Quote attributable to Member for Ripon Martha Haylett

"These grants ensure the service and sacrifice of our veteran community are remembered and appreciated forever, right around Victoria."

Media contact: Alison Caldwell 0408 495 637 | alison.caldwell@minstaff.vic.gov.au