



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS
ASSOCIATION WA Inc. Edition 3/2026
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PRESIDENT IAN GOODALL

Presentation at the Old Boys Parade
Kings Park 11th of April

We gather today at this 10th Light Horse Memorial to pause..... and recognise the service of all those who have served in the unit since it was raised at the beginning of WW1.....Their contributions that set the standards and “Es' Sprit De Corp” for

those that followed in WW2, in the CMF and Reserve forces that followed..... To remember those that didn't return to their families from all wars.... conflicts.....peacekeeping operations..... and during training..... of those that suffered because of their service.

We remember them for their bravery..... their mate ship.....and their sacrifice.....as well, we honour their families and friends who supported them.

We also remember their mounts of which there were thousands that didn't return.

For our tomorrows, they gave their today.

Let us now reflect today To those serving in the regiment today you are entrusted to uphold those standards and by all reports continue to do so. You have the full support of those that have gone before you..... with the wars in the middle east and in part of Europe... of the need for the precious gift of peaceto commit ourselves and others to protecting it.

The Association would like to thank the Commanding Officer Jason O'Keefe, RSM Adam Scott and the Officers and Soldiers of 10LH Regiment for supporting the Old Boys Parade – a tradition of some 76 years.

ANZAC DAY MARCH PERTH WA 25TH OF APRIL

AN INVITATION TO PAST AND SERVING RAAC MEMBERS

PLEASE JOIN THE RAACA WA FOR THE 2026 ANZAC DAY MARCH IN PERTH WA AT FORM-UP SECTION MARKER D, 44 ON ST GEORGES TERRACE PERTH TIME: NO LATER THAN 8.45AM FOR 9.00AM

MARCH ATTIRE SHOULD BE NEAT AND TIDY OUT OF RESPECT TO THE FALLEN (TORN DENIM, SPORTING ATTIRE, DIRTY JOGGERS, ETC, ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS). EXAMPLE OF APPROPRIATE DRESS IS; JACKET AND TIE.



P1 – 3 President/Old Boys/ANZAC Events

P4 RAACA Events

6-9 Veterans Legislation

10 Membership

Military editorial and information contributions welcomed

John Dwyer Editor



10 Light Horse Regiment
welcomes you to

ANZAC Day 2026

25 April 2026 12:00 - 17:00
Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta



Join with current, past serving members of the unit in a family friendly environment along with food and drink vans, entertainment and the normal events held after ANZAC DAY events across the country. Please contact the Secretary John Dwyer jadanne14@gmail.com and he will arrange registration with the unit. Please include family or friends who may be attending with you. Adults ensure you have photo ID at the gates.

DAWN SERVICE KINGS PARK

Dawn Service

Time 0530 onwards at the State War Memorial

President Ina will lay wreath on behalf of all RAAC ex and current serving members and families. . All black hats invited to coffee plus in the car park following service. Organised by Bill Robertson he will be set up on the East side of the park down from the exit Path from the memorial to the car park – just turn left.

BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 30th of April 10am to 12n at the Dome 100 The Esplanade Mt Pleasant

All welcome.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC - ACTIVITY SHEET 2026

Month	Date	Day	Function
Jan	13	Tue	COMMITTEE MEETING
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH
Feb	7	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Mar	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	22	SUN	AGM
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH
Apr	7	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	11	SAT	OLD BOYS PARADE
	24	FRI	STATE WAR MEMORIAL EVENING
	25	SAT	DAWN SERVICE
	25	SAT	ANZAC MARCH AND UNIT
May	12	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	28	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Jun	6	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH

Month	Date	Day	Function
Jul	14	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	26	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
	30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Aug	1	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
			NEK DINNER
	27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE THROSSELL VC XLH memorial Guildford/Rose hotel
Sep	8	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	24	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Oct	3	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
Nov	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	20	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING SOUTH
Dec	5	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	13	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ

80th anniversary RAACA WA TBC

Jan-27 12 Tue committee meeting
 28 Thu black hat coffee north



WELLBEING AGENCIES WESTERN AUSTRALIA – ANZAC HOUSE PERTH OPEN AND GOLDSWORTHY CENTRE ROCKINGHAM (July) -

A new wellbeing agency focused on veteran and family wellbeing will begin operations on 1 July this year. In 2025, veterans, families and service providers shared their experiences and ideas through consultation and co-design activities. The message was clear: the wellbeing system needs to be easier to navigate, more inclusive of families and grounded in lived experience. And it should be focused on prevention and early support for those in the process of transition – not just provide a crisis response.

Those priorities are now shaping the practical design of the new agency.

Based on what was heard through consultations, the agency's role has been defined around 5 core functions:

- Wellbeing education, prevention and early intervention
- Transition planning and preparedness
- Navigation and referrals to wellbeing supports, including acute, complex and crisis support
- Life-stage transitions and community connection
- Wellbeing monitoring and feedback

Together, these functions provide a framework for how the agency will develop capability to connect and integrate, supporting access to early prevention and support, which underpin the agency's approach.

A new website will provide accessible wellbeing information tailored to the veteran community. By making information clearer and easier to find, the agency aims to support earlier help-seeking and informed decision-making.

Improving navigation across the wellbeing system is a key early priority. A new service directory will be developed and made available through the website. It will focus on trusted local and community-based services, making it simpler for veterans, families of veterans, and supporters to navigate the system and find services within their local communities.

For those who would benefit from additional assistance, the agency will also provide access through a dedicated phone line. This will help individuals and families who require additional assistance to connect with the right services at the right time, reducing confusion and improving coordination across the system.

The agency's role is to strengthen connection and access, complementing existing clinical and compensation services rather than replacing them.

Families play a critical role in wellbeing and transition, and their inclusion has been central to the agency's design. Support will be available to families who need help finding and accessing appropriate services, including those delivered through Veterans' and Families' Hubs. This approach recognises that wellbeing impacts the whole family and that families play an important role in help-seeking and recovery.

Lived experience will continue to inform how the agency develops. On-going engagement with veterans and families will continue as the agency grows, helping ensure services remain practical, relevant and responsive to the needs of the community.

The final step in the journey towards a simpler, easier to use legislative framework for veterans' compensation is now less than 3 months away.

From 1 July the current three-Act system will be simplified, with all new claims determined under a single on-going Act – an improved version of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

This will enable veterans and families of veterans to have all new claims for compensation and rehabilitation assessed against the MRCA criteria, regardless of when a veteran served, or when their injuries or diseases occurred.

The transition to the improved MRCA as the single on-going Act marks a major milestone in the response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The Royal Commission highlighted the need to simplify and harmonise the legislation governing compensation and rehabilitation to reduce the complexity of the support system for veterans and families of veterans.

The changing nature of Defence service across the 20th and 21st centuries had resulted in a system of multiple Acts. This made it hard for veterans, families, advocates and DVA staff to navigate, leaving some individuals eligible for compensation under more than one Act for the same injury, incapacity, or death.

In responding to the need to change this complex and sometimes confusing system, from 2022 the veteran community and other key stakeholders were consulted on legislative reform, with feedback shaping the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025 (VETS Act)*, which was passed by the Australian Parliament in February 2025.

When it comes into full effect on 1 July, the VETS Act will bring all veterans' entitlements under the improved MRCA, providing clearer, fairer and more consistent compensation outcomes for veterans and families of veterans. Various entitlements will be enhanced, while allowances and other payments that had operated differently across the 3 Acts will be standardised from 1 July.

This includes reimbursement for travel for treatment and expanded eligibility for incapacity payments, as well as improvements to liability, and benefits for dependants, from support for education to funeral compensation.

As part of the transition, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)* and *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)* will close to new claims for compensation on Tuesday, 30 June (11.59 pm AEST).

Existing compensation payments under the VEA and DRCA will then be 'grand-parented' from 1 July. This means they will continue uninterrupted and be indexed as normal, with no reduction in entitlements. There is an exception for veterans receiving DRCA incapacity payments, who will transition to the more beneficial MRCA payments from 1 July.

As part of the VETS Act, a single review pathway harmonising appeals across the 3 Acts to the Veterans' Review Board was introduced on 21 April 2025.

Support for veterans

When the new veterans' legislation comes into full effect from 1 July, there will be no change to existing compensation payments or services. Veterans will not need to take any action for these payments to continue.

Existing income support payments such as the Veteran Payment, Service Pension, Partner Service Pension and Income Support Supplement will continue as normal. There will be no change to existing Disability Compensation Payments, including above general rate payments such as

Existing income support payments such as the Veteran Payment, Service Pension, Partner Service Pension and Income Support Supplement will continue as normal. There will be no change to existing Disability Compensation Payments, including above general rate payments such as the Special Rate Pension (TPI) Temporary Special Rate (TTI) and Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) under the provisions of the VETS Act.

There is an exception for DRCA veterans receiving incapacity payments, who will have their benefits transferred to the more generous MRCA incapacity payments on 1 July.

All veterans with Qualifying Service will continue to be eligible for the Gold Card at age 70, with treatment for existing card holders to continue unchanged.

The automatic payment of War Widows and Orphans' pensions under the VEA will continue after 1 July, as well as the automatic granting of funeral benefits. Eligible dependants will continue to receive Gold Cards.

There will be no interruption to approved services already being received for Rehabilitation and Household Services and/or Attendant Care.

All claims lodged by National Servicemen will be investigated and determined under the improved MRCA from 1 July. This includes veterans with part-time service in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF), and coverage under the 1971 and 1930 Acts.

Eligible DRCA veterans will automatically transition to the more beneficial MRCA incapacity payments from 1 July. Payments under the MRCA include a remuneration loading and have no notional reduction for superannuation. VEA veterans who are unable to work because of service-related conditions may also be eligible to claim for incapacity payments from 1 July.

Improvements to liability

The improved MRCA will recognise medical conditions previously accepted under the DRCA or VEA, so there will be no need to re-establish liability for existing accepted conditions. This includes presumptive conditions and categories accepted under the DRCA, including compensation for Point Cook fire-fighters and F-111 DE seal/Reseal workers.

A number of changes will also be made to liability provisions under the improved MRCA from 1 July:

- *Medical event on duty*: The definition of 'service injury' will change from 1 July, removing the requirement to show an injury that occurs on duty, such as a heart attack or stroke, was caused by a member's service.
- *Injuries or deaths arising from treatment*: Serving members will be covered for unintended consequences of treatment under Defence health arrangements, including for pre-existing conditions or preventative treatment.
- *Conditions relating to tobacco use*: Claims relating to tobacco use before 1 January 1998 may be accepted as service related, ensuring no disadvantage for VEA and DRCA veterans. There will be a number of improvements to Permanent Impairment (PI) compensation from 1 July:
 - *'Date of effect'*: This will allow treating doctors to provide a meaningful estimate of when an impairment met the criteria of being permanent and stable for payment to commence.
 - *MRCA section 80 (s.80) additional compensation payments for the children of severely injured veterans*: In changes from 1 July, the amount can be paid either to the impaired veteran or to the primary carer (or appropriately apportioned where primary caring arrangements are shared) of the eligible young person or child.
 - *Posthumous PI payment for veteran families*: Providing an option to convert weekly payments into a lump sum where claims were outstanding at the time of a veteran's death.

- *Financial advice:* The Repatriation Commission will be able to determine circumstances where a vulnerable veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum PI payment.

New support for severely impaired veterans Additional Disablement Amount

The Additional Disablement Amount (ADA) is a new payment that will provide continued support for veterans over pension age with a high degree of impairment due to service-caused injuries or illness. It is similar to the VEA Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) benefit.

Veterans who are eligible for the ADA will receive a Veteran Gold Card, with compensation also available to wholly dependent partners in the event of the veterans death.

Special Rate Disability Pension

The Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) supports veterans who are under pension age and whose capacity for work is severely restricted because of accepted conditions related to military service. It can be received instead of MRCA incapacity payments.

DRCA veterans will become eligible for the SRDP for the first time from 1 July. VEA veterans ineligible for the Special Rate (or TPI) pension because of the "alone test" may also be eligible for the SRDP (as there is no equivalent test under the MRCA). Veterans who are eligible for the SRDP will receive a Veteran Gold Card, with compensation also available to wholly dependent partners in the event of the veteran's death.

Veteran Card

DRCA veterans with high levels of impairment may become eligible for the Veteran Gold Card for the first time from 1 July. This will require acceptance of initial liability for a new condition under the improved MRCA or the worsening of an accepted condition by 5 impairment points, and 60 impairment points overall.

Eligibility for the ADA or SRDP from 1 July is also a pathway to the Gold Card.

Travel for medical treatment

From 1 July, all eligible treatment card holders will be able to claim the MRCA travel reimbursement amount of \$0.68/ km when a private vehicle is used to travel for approved treatment. This is higher than the rate of \$0.44/km currently payable under the VEA.

The 50 km round trip minimum distance requirement will be removed, ensuring more veterans can be reimbursed for travel costs related to treating their service conditions from 1 July.

Rehabilitation

From 1 July, veterans with open VEA and DRCA rehabilitation plans will automatically transition to the MRCA rehabilitation scheme. As there are no differences between DRCA and MRCA rehabilitation, this will mean no change for DRCA veterans.

VEA veterans working under the Veterans' Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme (VVRS) will remain eligible for the special rate and intermediate rate of the disability compensation pension and invalidity service pension. DVA will also review VVRS plans to identify any additional rehabilitation activities that may be of benefit.

support for Household Services and Attendant Care

VEA veterans having difficulties managing domestic or personal care tasks due to service-related conditions will become eligible to apply for Household Services and/or Attendant Care for the first time from 1 July.

Support for veteran families

The children of severely injured DRCA veterans will be eligible to apply for the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme for the first time from 1 July.

Funeral expenses for all service-related deaths occurring on or after 1 July will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$14,990 (indexed). This will include the automatic granting of funeral compensation for eligible VEA veterans, with this benefit retained and increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Additional lump sum compensation may also be payable where a veteran's death is service-related and occurs on or after 1 July.

Partners of veterans who were eligible for the Additional Disablement Amount at the time of their death and who meet the MRCA criteria of "Wholly Dependent" will be entitled to compensation. Eligible partners may receive a Gold Card for life, and the children of deceased DRCA veterans may also be eligible for a Gold Card for claims made after 1 July.

There will also be the flexibility to convert their Wholly Dependent Partner compensation payments into an age-based lump sum for claims made after 1 July.

Deciding when to make a claim

All new claims for compensation under the VEA and DRCA will close on Tuesday, 30 June (11.59pm AEST). New claims for compensation and rehabilitation received on or after 1 July will then be determined under the improved MRCA as the single on-going Act.

Useful information

A range of resources is available on DVA's website that can help you learn more about the changes from 1 July. This includes:

- more than 20 fact sheets and summaries of the impact for particular groups
- frequently asked questions
- scenarios that demonstrate how the improved MRCA may impact individual circumstances.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall Secretary 8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

Phone/message: 0414376756 email: iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au

APPLICANT: Surname _____ Other Names _____

Home Address _____ Suburb _____ Post Code _____

Date Of Birth ____/____/____ Occupation _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Business: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Details of Military Service including serial number, rank on discharge or current rank, units with whom you served.

Annual Subscription \$ 40.00 per annum

WIFE/PARTNER/OTHER:

Name of your wife/partner/other _____

(Or next of kin if applicable with address and phone number)

Home Phone Number: _____ Business: _____

[Mobile Phone](#) Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Name desired on Name Plate _____

Additional Name Plate is available for Wife/Partner/other at a cost of \$10.00

Wife/Partner/others name desired on Name Plate _____

Nominated By: _____

Joining Fee includes Lapel badge, this badge always remains the property of the RAACA WA and if resigning must be returned.

Remitted \$40 or \$50 _____ if Nameplate required for Wife/Partner/Other (please tick one)

Association Bank Account details for Direct Deposit

RAACA WA Inc CBA Warwick BSB 066 192 a/c 1032 9559 (please include your name)

I hereby apply to join the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association WA Inc and in doing so pledge to promote the objectives of the Association, maintain the spirit, comradeship and tradition of the Corps and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

DATE ____/____/____

Signature _____