



Dear ,

We write to you today in an unusual time for the community and wanted to re-assure you that the RSL are taking steps to prepare for the various impacts of the COVID-19 situation.

Our most important consideration is veterans and their families. We also have in our thoughts RSL volunteers, staff and the community throughout Victoria.

Within RSL Victoria our Chief of Veteran Services, Adam Lawson, is leading our preparedness to be able to continue to deliver services to veterans, look after the well-being of our staff and to advise RSL Sub-Branchees on how best to continue their connection to veterans and their communities.

Yesterday we convened a special meeting of the ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee, at which it was decided that:

- A single service, at dawn, would be conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance. The public will be asked to stay away.
- The Melbourne march will not go ahead.
- Each RSL Sub-Branch should consider conducting a single ANZAC Day Service. The public should be asked to stay away.

Our full media release relating to these decisions can be viewed at this link:

Make no mistake, ANZAC Day is not cancelled. It will just be different.

Whilst physically attending a service on ANZAC Day this year will not be possible, we must remember that ANZAC Day is about so much more than this. We should all embody the spirit and sentiment in those solemn words; Lest We Forget. Information about how members can listen to or watch commemoration services through TV, Radio and Social Media streaming will be made available to you in the coming weeks. We will also be launching a campaign to encourage Victorians to #STANDTO.

The main priority for RSL Victoria in the coming weeks and months is to ensure that we are supporting the veteran community who may be impacted by this event. We will work with the Sub-Branch network to provide a centrally coordinated approach to ensuring that our veterans remain connected and get access to the support they need. It's important that we work together as one RSL. Information on how you can be involved will be communicated soon.

Over the coming weeks and months, it is important that we, as a veteran network and community, support one another in any way we can, whilst ensuring we look after our own health and wellbeing. Stay home if you are unwell, follow medical and government advice and stay emotionally connected with the RSL, your family and friends. Pick up the phone and have a chat to loved ones

For details on COVID-19, updates on important news and actions individuals can take, please visit: dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

As the situation changes, RSL Victoria and our Sub-Branches will endeavour to keep members up to date.

Take care.

Dr Robert Webster
State President OAM

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