

Victorian Budget 2017/18

Supporting and honouring our veterans



This special edition of the Veteran Community Newsletter is to advise you of the Government's continuing support for veterans in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*. The Budget fosters support and respect for veterans with new funding for a range of targeted programs and initiatives.

Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy

Here in Victoria we believe that the skills and experience gained in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) are second-to-none. To support their career path after the ADF, the Victorian Government has set a target to employ 250 veterans into the public sector. The [Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy](#) – a key component of the Government's response to the [Victorian Veterans Sector Study Report 2015](#) – will develop materials to help veterans understand opportunities in the Victorian Public Sector and translate their ADF experience to the public sector, as well as monitor and address any barriers for veterans in securing employment.

Support for the Shrine of Remembrance

More than 1 million people visited this iconic landmark last year. We are giving the Shrine the support it needs to attract even more visitors and educate more Victorians than ever before. An additional \$2.8 million over four years will help deliver programs that teach our students about Victoria's proud wartime history and the sacrifices made by our veterans. The funding will also support the ongoing development of the Galleries of Remembrance and the running of commemorative and ceremonial activities for the wider community.

War heritage, education and commemoration

Protecting Victoria's precious war heritage is a Government priority and new funding will assist communities to safeguard and protect that heritage. Additional funds will also ensure that all Victorians have the opportunity to connect with our military legacy through the [Anzac Centenary Program \(2014-2018\)](#) which will continue until the Centenary of the Armistice in November 2018.

Online Service Platform

The [Victorian Veterans Sector Study Report 2015](#) highlighted the importance of getting the right information about support services, so options will be explored for a Victorian specific online platform that will assist veterans to access the services they need.

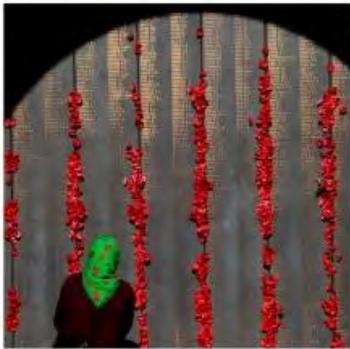
First Home Owners Grant exemption for ADF members

The *Victorian Budget 2017/18* will also support ADF current serving members in a way that recognises the special nature of their job. ADF personnel don't live at home while they serve abroad or live on base. The 2017/18 Budget includes a special exemption for service personnel from the First Home Owners Grant (FHOG) criteria that requires applicants to live in their new home as their principal place of residence within a year of settlement, for a continuous period of at least 12 months. The [exemption to the \\$10,000 FHOG](#) will make it easier for ADF personnel to buy their first home. The same exemption will apply to the new regional FHOG, which provides \$20,000 for first home buyers buying newly built homes in regional Victoria.

Funding announced in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18* is in addition to the ongoing funding which supports the [Veterans grant programs](#). Information about the *Victorian Budget 2017/18* is available at www.veterans.vic.gov.au/budget.

The Hon John Eren MP
Minister for Veterans





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