



**Embargoed 0900hrs Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **RSL NATIONAL & THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PARTNER IN VETERAN SUICIDE MEMORIAL**

Today, the CEO of RSL National announced that they have entered into discussions with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to fund the establishment of a memorial on the grounds of the AWM dedicated to Veteran Suicide.

The proposed memorial will provide a place of comfort for families, friends and the broader community to reflect on the legacy of service and will assist in providing a focal point for issues related to the mental health and wellbeing of current and ex-serving defence personnel.

*“We approached the AWM earlier this year with a proposal to establish a Veteran Suicide Memorial to provide families, friends, comrades and loved ones with a dedicated place of remembrance. All of our fallen service personnel deserve the same level of remembrance”,* said Georgie Macris (RSL National CEO).

*“The number of veteran suicides is steadily increasing year on year. We need to create more awareness in the veteran and broader community on veteran suicide if we are going to have any impact on decreasing these numbers. This memorial project is very close to my heart. I consider the development of this memorial to be one of the most imperative projects I will ever undertake on behalf the veteran and broader community”.*

RSL National will hold consultations sessions in each State over the coming months to ensure all members of the veteran community and their families are involved and engaged in this project from the get go.

*“The RSL is facilitating this project but the memorial belongs to the families, friends and loved ones of those veterans who have taken their lives. I encourage veterans from all generations and their families to be involved in these preliminary discussions so we can work together to develop this memorial”.*

The dates and times of the consultation sessions will be available on the RSL National website in the last week of May. RSL National also welcomes written submissions from anyone who may not be able to attend the scheduled consultation session in their state. Please send via email to [members@rsl.org.au](mailto:members@rsl.org.au)

**For more information please contact Georgie Macris CEO RSL National on 0417 253 392**