



The RSL welcomes the release of the Senate Reference Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Report -The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans Suicide.

“Firstly, we commend and thank all the individuals who provided a submission to the inquiry or gave evidence at the public hearings for sharing their very personal experiences to assist with the inquiry,” said Robert Dick National President of the Returned & Services League (RSL).

“The report details some very comprehensive findings and recommendations that will require some careful consideration by the Government and ex-service organisations.

In May this year, RSL National announced that they have entered discussions with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to the establish a memorial on the grounds of the AWM dedicated to those who have served and took their own lives.

“It was very reassuring that both the Committee and Chair support the proposed Veteran Suicide Memorial this is one of the RSL’s most import memorial projects.

There will be a series of consultation sessions conducted by the RSL throughout 2017 to engage the veteran and broader community in the development of this memorial.

“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 must work together to raise awareness of this issue in both the veteran and broader community.

“There has been considerable work done over the last 18 months to help us understand the complexities of veteran mental health but there is an immediate need to concentrate all of our efforts on developing national suicide prevention strategies and education campaigns.” said Mr Dick.

For more information on previous statements from the RSL please visit www.rslnational.org
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