



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL OFFICE

Patron-in-Chief: His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

A member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

9 May 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT

RECOGNITION THAT ADF MEMBERS DESERVE SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER THEIR SERVICE

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) welcomes the Labor Opposition's commitment announced today in a joint Media Alert of wide-ranging support to both the nation's current serving ADF members and to those who once served, importantly, including their families.

DFWA welcomes the Opposition's commitments on several fronts. The first being the retention of a specific Department of Veterans Affairs. This alone gives credibility to the notion of a 'veteran centric' department focused on the issues of veteran and their families. Second is the commitment to adequately resource the Association to enhance its ability to properly represent serving ADF members in a professional manner particularly at Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal hearings. Such recognition of its role in representing serving personnel has been long sought from successive governments without success.

Finally in commenting on Labor's *'Employment Package'* and its *'National Families Engagement and Support Strategy'*, the National President of DFWA, Kel Ryan, stated that he was particularly pleased that 'Oasis Townsville', a long-held aspiration of the Townsville veterans community to have a single hub to which all veterans and their families could go, would be appropriately funded.

The 'Oasis' is a model concept that could in whole, or in part, be readily replicated in other parts of Australia. The concept is reflective of the collaboration that is possible between Ex-Service Organisations to not only help each other to achieve outcomes for a common cause but to have a shared focus on supporting serving and ex-serving members of the ADF by making the lives of these men, women and their families better, healthier, happier and more rewarding.

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