



## DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

QUEENSLAND BRANCH INCORPORATED

Member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)

Telephone: 07 3233 4480

Email: [qldbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:qldbranch@dfwa.org.au)

Victoria Barracks Brisbane

ENOGGERA QLD 4051

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To: Qld Political Parties

The number of current and former serving ADF members living in Qld exceeds 265,000. Many veterans with their families, have resettled in Qld after leaving the Australian Defence Force (ADF), especially on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and further north. Also, approximately 22% of the ADF are currently based in Queensland (Cairns, Townsville, Enoggera, Amberley) and most are accompanied by family. Adding families to the 265,000, shows the Defence Community in Queensland is significant.

The purpose of the DFWA is to foster the best interests and welfare of all members of the ADF and their families in any matter likely to affect them during or after their period of service.

While prime responsibility for current and former serving ADF members lies with the Federal Government, many services used by Veterans and their families are delivered and controlled by state governments, e.g., education, health, coronial (suicide), justice and homelessness to name a few. Several veteran issues where state has all or part responsibility have been identified as key by DFWA and have been raised in the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council (QVAC), in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) and other fora.

DFWA (Qld) will summarise the political parties' positions on relevant issues based on the information each party provides. The summary format is shown below. This will be distributed by email and social media to our network of members in Qld, other Ex-Service Organisations, veteran and family social media groups/networks and current ADF members and families. This will be done on Thursday 16 November.

Veteran Issue	Party A	Party B	etc	Notes
Stated Veteran Policy or published statement?	Yes - policy. Note 1.	Yes - statements. Note 2	No.	1. See link <a href="http://www.aaa.org">www.aaa.org</a> 2. See link <a href="http://www.bbb.org">www.bbb.org</a>
Create Qld Minister for Veteran Affairs as exists in NSW, Vic, SA, and WA.	No. Note 3.	Yes	No response	3. Assistant Minister Assisting the Premier will have responsibility.
Etc				

Your party is invited to complete and return the attached form by COB Wednesday 15 November. Your policy and support statements will then be passed to our veteran networks to assist individuals to make their own informed decisions regarding the Qld election. DFWA is apolitical and non-partisan and will make no recommendations regarding voting preferences.

For further enquiries, please contact the undersigned by email.

Yours sincerely,

*John Lewis*

President

Defence Force Welfare Association Qld

[www.dfwa.org.au](http://www.dfwa.org.au)

## QLD STATE ELECTION 2017 – POSTION ON VETERAN ISSUES

Please complete following form and forward to [gldbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:gldbranch@dfwa.org.au) by 15 Nov. Long responses will not be included in the summary, however you may provide a link to your website where you address the particular matter.

Political Party	
Contact Details For Clarification of Response	

Veteran Issue	Party Response
Do you have a stated Veteran Policy or published statements addressing veteran issues such as individual and family support in the areas of health, education, homelessness, integration with the community and transition from Service?	Please provide link(s).
Do you support creation of Qld Minister for Veteran Affairs as exists in NSW, Vic, SA, WA, supported by permanent small staff to co-ordinate/address veteran support across Qld government departments and to support Qld representation on the federally sponsored Veteran Ministers Round Table (VMRT) and CSTC, where issues such as veteran suicide and homelessness statistics and remedial action are addressed?	
Do you support the continuation of the Qld Veterans' Advisory Council (QVAC) to provide means of consultation with the veteran community?	
Do you support the provision of a "Qld Veteran's Card" ( providing discounts and Transport Concession) –Being reviewed by Dept of Premier And Cabinet	
<p>Do you support the introduction by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of end of WW1, a Qld Charter for Veterans formally recognising the unique nature of military service (including the requirement to accept compulsory postings), and which <b>establishes the principle that veterans and their families should not be disadvantaged by state legislation or regulation in access to state provided services because of ADF service</b>, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The family accompanying an ADF member posted to Qld from interstate, if in receipt of state provided services (eg disability support) in the original state, should get continuity of equivalent services provided in Qld and not have to go on a waiting list.</li> <li>• A family member on a waiting list for state provided medical procedure in originating state, should get credit on Qld waiting list if existing, for time spent on waiting list in originating state.</li> <li>• The family of an ADF member who dies in service, if they relocate within Qld or from outside Qld, should have priority and not be put on a waiting list for any state provided service.</li> </ul>	
An ADF member and family, relocating within or to Qld on transitioning to civilian life should not be put on a waiting list for any state provided services.	
Do you support establishment of the Ex-ADF Community Support Services Hub in Townsville (Australia's largest garrison city) as proposed to the Qld Government by the Ex-ADF & Families Suicide Prevention Project – Townsville? <a href="http://www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld">http://www.dfwa.org.au/branches/qld</a>	
A brief statement (up to 100 words) regarding intended tangible measures supporting veterans and families to be implemented in the fixed term. (No motherhood statements).	Statement or link to website on veteran specific matters.