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The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time

**Australian Veterans' Recognition
(Putting Veterans and their Families
First) Bill 2019**

No. , 2019

(Veterans' Affairs)

**A Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition of
veterans, and for related purposes**

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1 **A Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition of**
2 **veterans, and for related purposes**

3 The Parliament of Australia enacts:

4 **Part 1—Preliminary**
5

6 **1 Short title**

7 This Act is the *Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans*
8 *and their Families First) Act 2019.*

Part 2—Recognition of veterans and their families**5 General recognition**

- (1) The Commonwealth acknowledges the unique nature of military service and the sacrifice demanded of those who commit to defend our nation.
- (2) The Commonwealth acknowledges the demands placed on, and the sacrifices made by, the families of veterans.
- (3) The Commonwealth acknowledges that veterans may require support mechanisms to enjoy good health, to access employment and training opportunities, to access appropriate housing, to have access to justice, to enjoy social wellbeing or to participate in community engagement after the end of their military service.
- (4) The Commonwealth is committed to supporting veterans and providing the care and support they require.
- (5) The Commonwealth acknowledges that support for veterans should be provided in a way that respects their dignity as individuals, enhances their self-esteem, is sensitive to any physical or mental injury or disease they may have suffered and respects their military service.
- (6) The Commonwealth acknowledges that veterans should be supported to achieve greater economic wellbeing and sustainability and greater participation in civic affairs and should have opportunities to participate in employment and education.

6 Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Parliament, on behalf of the people of Australia, endorses the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant set out in Schedule 1.

1 **Part 3—Issue of pins, cards or other artefacts**
2

3 **9 Issue of pins, cards or other artefacts**

4 (1) The Commonwealth may issue pins, cards or other artefacts to
5 veterans in recognition of the military service of veterans.

6 (2) The Commonwealth may issue pins, cards or other artefacts to
7 family members of veterans in recognition of:

8 (a) the military service of veterans; or

9 (b) the demands placed on, and the sacrifices made by, the
10 families of veterans.

1 **Part 4—Other matters**
2

3 **10 Part 2 does not create or give rise to rights or obligations**

4 (1) Part 2 does not, by its terms or operation, create or give rise to any
5 rights (whether substantive or procedural), or obligations, that are
6 legally enforceable in judicial or other proceedings.

7 (2) A failure to comply with Part 2 does not affect the validity of any
8 decision, and is not a ground for the review or challenge of any
9 decision.

10 (3) No action, suit or proceeding is to be instituted in reliance on the
11 terms of Part 2 or the operation of that Part.

12 **11 Act not intended to exclude similar State or Territory laws**

13 This Act is not intended to apply to the exclusion of any law of a
14 State or Territory that provides for the recognition of veterans or
15 their families.

1 **Schedule 1—Australian Defence Veterans’**
2 **Covenant**

3 Note: See section 6.
4



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT

*We, the people of Australia, respect and give thanks
to all who have served in our defence force and their families.*

*We acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the sacrifice
demanded of all who commit to defend our nation.*

*We undertake to preserve the memory and deeds of all who have served
and promise to welcome, embrace, and support
all military veterans as respected and valued members of our community.*

For what they have done, this we will do.

5
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