



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION
Patron-in-Chief: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

ACT BRANCH INC
[Proudly Incorporating the ACT Defence Widows Group]

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ACT BRANCH MEMBERS FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE BRANCH

The ACT Branch Committee recently, but reluctantly, agreed to **consider** un-incorporating the ACT Branch due to falling membership and lack of Committee membership. This would involve the un-incorporation of the Branch as a registered Association in the ACT, and free the Branch from formal reporting and governance requirements.

Members ought not be concerned by this proposed course of action.

- Following un-incorporation there will continue to be an ACT DFWA presence that will continue to provide support to local activities eg to the DWG, welfare etc.
- Current ACT Branch Members will continue their membership of the *Association*, and be identified on the membership roll as being a member of an (unincorporated) ACT Branch. They will be formally registered as a member of an incorporated body, be it another Branch (NSW ?) or National.

The Committee and DFWA National are currently considering the mechanics of how un-incorporation of a Branch will affect the Association as a whole. One option being considered is for DFWA National to take over the membership responsibilities of current ACT Branch members, or having members transferred (for administrative purposes only) to another Branch.

The ACT Branch Constitution provides guidance on closure arrangements, and these will need to be followed. The Constitution states that action to dissolve the Branch shall only be taken on a poll of members. The proposal shall be confirmed if two-thirds of those voting approve of it, and two months' notice has to be given of the intention to hold such a poll.

This matter is continuing to be given close consideration and Branch members will be updated at the next AGM and was outlined in the current edition of *Camaraderie*.

Members wishing further information are invited to contact the Branch President for further information, and to attend the AGM for further updates. The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 November at The Burns Club, Kambah.

Finally, members are also advised that similar actions are being considered by some other Branches. Ultimately the Association as a whole must move to being a national body and be managed as such. That would not preclude local activities being supported, be it on a State or regional basis.

Les Bienkiewicz

President

August 2019