



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

ACT BRANCH INC.  
(Proudly incorporating the ACT Defence Widows Group)

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## A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL ACT BRANCH DFWA MEMBERS March 2020

Members have previously been alerted to the proposal of the ACT Branch Committee to un-incorporate the Branch. That's the bad news. The **good news** is that this will have little or no impact on members of the Branch, or on DFWA activities in the ACT and surrounding region.

### A SUMMARY OF WHAT IS PROPOSED FROM 1 JULY 2020

- The ACT Branch of the DFWA will become the ACT Chapter of the NSW Branch.
- All current ACT Branch members will become members of the ACT Chapter of the NSW Branch.
- NSW Branch will manage your DFWA membership, including collection of subscriptions.
- The ACT Chapter will have a local ACT based Committee (as the Branch currently has) and will continue "business as usual". We simply will not be encumbered with the administrative and legal burdens imposed by being incorporated in the ACT. These will now be managed by the NSW Branch.
- The ACT Chapter will control its own finances, and be managed by a Committee of the ACT Chapter. Again, "business as usual". The ACT Chapter will also be represented on the NSW Branch Committee.

### THE NEXT STEPS

The ACT Branch Constitution states that action to dissolve the Branch shall only be taken on a poll of members, and the proposal to dissolve be confirmed if **two-thirds of those voting** approve of it. Furthermore, it requires two months' notice to be given to members of the vote. This note and the advice to members in the ACT Branch News in *Camaraderie* (First Edition 2020), provide two months' notice of a vote to be taken in late May 2020. Details on how the vote will occur is currently being considered.

Significantly, the Constitution does not give guidance on what should occur if the vote does not agree to dissolve the Branch. The reality is that moving the Branch to becoming a Chapter of the NSW Branch is the **only** viable way current ACT DFWA activities can continue into the future. If the proposed steps are not taken, the Branch will simply wither and die. Your Committee has therefore decided that an orderly transition to becoming an ACT Chapter is in the best interests of current ACT Branch members.

### IN CONCLUSION.....

Should you have any concerns on this matter or wish to seek further information, you are invited to call me directly to discuss, or drop me a note at [actbranch@dfwa.org.au](mailto:actbranch@dfwa.org.au). I look forward to an orderly transition for us becoming an ACT Chapter following the vote of members in late May. Thank you for your understanding and continuing support of the DFWA.

LES BIENKIEWICZ  
President, ACT Branch DFWA

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