



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Supporting our Veterans

**20 February, 2018**

**Sarah Courtney, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier**

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide a \$750,000 package to support our veterans and ex-serving communities in Tasmania over the next 3 years.

In a first, the RSL (Tasmania Branch) will become the peak body for veterans in Tasmania and, as a result of this change of status, the RSL will receive core annual funding of \$110,000 which is indexed into the future.

RSLs provide valuable assistance, support and advocacy for veterans and their families and securing this peak body core funding will help secure the organisation's future.

To help RSLs with repairs and maintenance we will establish a Teddy Sheean Grant Fund of \$100,000 per year for small infrastructure repairs and equipment purchases.

In partnership with the Parks and Wildlife, we will also provide a \$225,000 active recreation program in our National Parks for service personnel with a focus on mental health and well-being and a pathway to employment in outdoor

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education and/or eco-tourism

Our veterans support package includes \$40,000 for the Tasmanian Headstone Project which aims to install a gravestone and plaque on the unmarked graves of WW1 veterans who died after they returned to Tasmania from the war.

To date over 200 headstones have been placed on unmarked graves and we will provide vital funding to continue this project.

The Defence Force Veterans Time-out Workshop at Dowsings Point has provided a safe and supportive environment for all veterans and ex-serving defence personnel and we will provide \$15,000 towards keeping the doors open.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice will be celebrated and commemorated later this year and we will support the RSL (Tasmania Branch) with \$50,000 towards events in Tasmania

And, the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize and Study Tour has provided many young Tasmanians with an invaluable insight into WW1 on the Western Front, Belgium and France and we will provide \$135,000 per year for this to continue.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has been a proud and enthusiastic supporter of servicemen and women, their families and the RSL branches around Tasmania for the past 4 years and a re-elected Liberal Government we will continue that unwavering support into the future.

For more information <http://bit.ly/SupportingOurVeterans>

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