

COORDINATING INSTRUCTION - THE AUSTRALIAN VETERAN COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM

BRISBANE - WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the background, objectives and conduct of the Australian Veteran Community Symposium to be held on 9 November 2022 between 9am and 5pm.

The venue is the Hotel Grand Chancellor, 23 Leichhardt St, Spring Hill QLD 4000. Attendees are capped at 45 and will consist of members of the ESO community, veterans, veteran family members, and the veteran support community.

Background

This is an initiative of Ian Lindgren and Maria Lindgren, a veteran family, and owners of four veteran owned businesses. It is personally funded by the Lindgren family who have established the Australian Veteran Community at [this website](#) and [this Facebook site](#). The Australian Veteran Community is not a company and not another veteran organisation. It has been established to have a level of independence from the Ex-Service Organisation Community by consisting of likeminded people and organisation representatives attending to define an independent option for Government and the Royal Commission to consider the following from the Interim Report by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide:

- Recommendation 1: Simplify and harmonise veteran compensation and rehabilitation legislation,
- Recommendation 2: Eliminate the claims backlog, and
- Recommendation 3: Improve the administration of the claims system.

Ian Lindgren is the Vice Chairperson of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA), so it is loosely linked to the APPVA to ensure that it is covered by insurance, however the conduct of the symposium is solely a Lindgren family initiative. Therefore, the activity will be coordinated on the day by veterans and members of the veteran community who are not APPVA members and instead belong to other organisations. The outcomes will be owned by all participants.

Definitions

For the purposes of the activity the following definitions will apply and very likely that others will need to be defined to normalise definitions:

- **Enterprise Governance.** The framework of state and Commonwealth departments, rules, relationships, systems and processes within and by which authority is exercised, controlled to deliver services to the Veteran Support System and it encompasses the mechanisms by which those in control, are held to account.
- **The Veteran Support System.** The Veteran Support System (VSS) is the network of public and private organisations that support veterans and their families for the whole of veteran life.
- **The Veteran Support Network.** Those organisations that support the veteran and veteran family community such as, but not limited to, the medical community and Allied health community.

Objectives

The Objectives of the symposium are to:

- agree that the current veteran compensation and rehabilitation system is not fit-for-purpose and requires fundamental reform ^{1*},
- define a greenfield option for a new veteran compensation and rehabilitation system that is defined without any reference to the current veteran compensation and rehabilitation system ^{2*}
- define the key principles of a single legislative Act,
- enhance the list of veteran and veteran family issues and prioritise them,
- enhance the list of veteran support network issues and prioritise them,
- agree on one option to rapidly clear the claims backlog,
- consider three options that would provide a level governance over services delivered to the veteran and veteran family community, and agree one a preferred option subject to respective board agreements

The Need

A need to do this exists because the existing governance over the VSS “is not fit-for-purpose, it requires fundamental reform. It is out-of-date and is not working in the best interest of veterans and their families, or the Australian community³.” and “In reality the system has become unbearably complex, difficult to engage with, and produces the perverse outcome of causing further harm to many veterans rather than supporting them and their wellness⁴” and it has seen little improvement over the time of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

The issues raised in the documents named below describe a non-exhaustive reason why the current governance entities are we will achieve at the Symposium

- The Veteran Support System, and
- The Root Cause of Veteran Issues (a position paper written in the first person and taken from a post on LinkedIn.

Participation Characteristics

In order to participate you and your organisation must:

- agree to the same, or very similar issues existing within the VSS,
- be agile in thinking and able to focus on rapidly getting to the objectives of the day as opposed to becoming focussed on minor detail or becoming stuck on the myth that DVA is too large to change or the myth that a single veteran legislation is impossible,
- be capable of acting in the interests of the veteran community without a hidden agenda,
- be capable of participating in robust discussions where there is binding trust between all participants, trust that will ensure that no one is offended by robust discussion,
- have the courage to develop documents similar to board papers that challenge the status quo and present solutions without fear or unnecessary bureaucratic delay, and

¹ This is a condition of participation and entry to the Australian Veteran Community Symposium

² This is a condition of participation and entry to the Australian Veteran Community Symposium

³ [Productivity Commission Inquiry Report - A Better Way to Support Veterans](#)

⁴ [Preliminary Report by the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention](#)

- be ready to lead thought groups during the day so we have concurrent activity.

Preparation

Please read the attached documents so we have knowledge to a common standard at the start of the symposium.

Conduct

The agenda is attached to the covering email.

Media will be present on the day.

Coordination

The symposium is fully catered for commencing with coffee on arrival.

No one may attend without first being accepted having completed an [expression of interest](#) and then being selected as an attendee. This is a private event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Lindgren', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Lindgren
2 November 2022

Annex A: Attendees

ANNEX A

Attendees as at 2 November 2022

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Rosalie	Taxis	Brain 2 Brain
Kathryn	Summers	
Sarah	Smith	Duty First Legal
David	Pirie	
Jenni	Hausler	Self
Mark	Horner	APPVA
Krystal	Robinson	Defence Health
Ramon	Fenton	Women Veterans Network Australia
Di	Greene	Women Veterans Network Australia
Mike	hughes	Self
Kate	Chisholm	The Power Within
Samuel	Harris	Veteran Gaming Australia
Karen	Bird	
Heston	Russell	VSF
Ian	Lindgren	Self
Chris	Moss	APPVA
Tom Hanley	Hanley	APPVA
Dan	Smith	APPVA
Kel	Ryan	DFWA
Graeme	Alley	RSL
Margaret	Jenyns	RSL
Rob	Skoda	RSL
Martin	Hamilton Smith	ASASA
Mike	Handley	REDSIX (TBC)
Tim	Cuming	SMEAC (TBC)
Kel	Ryan	DFWA
Graeme	Alley	RSL
Margaret	Jenyns	RSL
Rob	Skoda	RSL
Andrew	Sloane	Self
Martin	Hamilton Smith	ASASA TBC
Andy	Ticehurst	