

## Recognising and supporting Tasmanian Veterans

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The Plan to support our ex-service  
community

## The Plan to support our ex-service community

### The Liberals' long term commitment to Tasmanian Veterans

The Liberals are strong supporters of the State's 11,000 war veterans and ex-service personnel. It is very important that as a community we support those who served our country, reflect on their service, and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

2015 will be a significant year for our veterans, war widows and their families, as we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli – the 'birthplace of the ANZAC' – and the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

We owe it to our ex-service men and women, and their families to show that we understand, and that we will never forget, the sacrifices of those who carried our flag and who wore our uniform.

#### Toughening up laws against war memorial vandalism

The vandalism of war memorials is abhorrent and unacceptable. Those who gave their lives in the service of our country deserve our deepest respect.

**A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will strengthen penalties to discourage such mindless vandalism.**

Vandals inflict more than just physical damage when they deface, damage or destroy a war memorial. It is extremely disrespectful and upsetting to ex-service men and women, their families and the community as a whole, and is considered a slight against those who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation.

The Liberals believe that the police and our judicial system should have greater powers to deal with vandals who desecrate or damage war memorials to ensure that they take responsibility for the hurt and distress that they cause, and rectify their actions within the community.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will create a **new crime of "Desecration of a War Memorial"** within the Criminal Code, with specific penalties including:

- Requiring offenders to pay for repairs to damage, in addition to the imposition of a fine; and
- Requiring offenders to perform community service work with the RSL to embrace the spirit of the ANZAC, and repay the community.

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### Teddy Sheean Memorial Trust

In a joint initiative with the RSL, **a majority Hodgman Liberal Government will establish an Edward 'Teddy' Sheean Memorial Trust** as a tribute to the late Tasmanian sailor who gave his life for his country and his fellow shipmates off the coast of East Timor in 1942.

The Teddy Sheean Memorial Trust will honour a brave Tasmanian who selflessly gave his life for others, and also the many Tasmanians who died in the defence of our country in the Second World War. A tribute to all who served during "our gravest hour", the trust will allow Tasmanian service clubs the opportunity to fund minor works whilst also acknowledging the sacrifice that Teddy Sheean made.

**A majority Liberal Hodgman Government will provide \$100,000 per year over three years for small grants for capital works to be undertaken by service clubs.**

### Extra support for the RSL

The Liberals recognise the immense value of the RSL to our ex-service men and women, and to the community generally, and will provide **an additional \$100,000 per year over three years** to support their ongoing operation, and increased need to support our veteran community.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will also continue to fund the Premier and Minister for Veterans' Affairs Annual Recognition Dinner.

### Frank Macdonald Memorial Prize

**A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to support the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize** to ensure that Tasmanian students are given the opportunity to go to Belgium and France for a two week tour of the battlefields of the Western Front following Frank MacDonald's footsteps.

The Liberals will also continue to award two bursaries each year for University of Tasmania Students undertaking research in relation to the State's war heritage.

### Upgrading cadet unit infrastructure

In recognition of the role of Tasmanian cadet units in developing the next generation of Tasmanian servicemen and women, supporting commemorative services, and generally keeping the spirit of the ANZAC alive across the State, **a majority Hodgman Liberal Government will establish a \$100,000 grants program in 2014-15 to assist in the maintenance of, and upgrades to, cadet infrastructure.**

## The Plan to support our ex-service community

### A fair go for ex-service men and women

The Liberals recognise that there are some Tasmanian ex-service men and women that are doing it tough, struggling, like so many other Tasmanians, with the rising cost of living under Labor and the Greens.

**A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will bring Tasmania into line with the rest of the country and require that Housing Tasmania recognise the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card issued to Totally and Permanently Incapacitated veterans in the State, to ensure that the Card can be used as evidence of all accepted disabilities and conditions for the purpose of establishing an entitlement to public housing in Tasmania.**

### Encouraging Defence personnel to return to Tasmania

Population growth is a Liberal priority. We recognise that increasing our population is essential for a prosperous Tasmania, to generate wealth, jobs and opportunities to grow our economy.

We have already set a long-term target to increase Tasmania's population to 650,000 by 2050.

An important component of our Big Tasmania Plan is encouraging former Defence personnel from Tasmania who discharge from the ADF to return to their home state. Many would like to return, but have had their confidence in the State crushed by the actions of Labor and the Greens.

**A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$20,000 to commence a pilot program to provide direct assistance, advice and support to ex-service men and women, tailored to their specific needs, to enable them to find employment, or start up their own business in Tasmania.**

The program will provide former personnel with the information, tools, and importantly, the confidence, that they require to find employment, and make the move back to Tasmania.

### Costings

\$720,000 over three years.