

## SUPPORTING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT US

Every single day, there are men and women who put their lives on the line for us. A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will make sure that service is given the respect and recognition it deserves.

Because leaving the frontline behind them can be difficult for so many, Labor will fund an expansion of the Centenary of Anzac Centre, which provides mental healthcare for current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families.

The \$1.5 million investment will fund capital works at the centre, which is run by Phoenix Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that is internationally renowned in the field of post-traumatic mental health.

With around 8.3 per cent of our armed forces having experienced post-traumatic stress in the last year alone, this is a real and insidious problem that impacts families across our state.

With this investment, Labor will deliver a huge expansion of mental health services – making Victoria our nation’s leader in the research and treatment of post-traumatic mental health, and making sure our servicemen and women get the support they deserve.

Today’s announcement builds on Labor’s commitment to introduce provisional acceptance

payments for mental health injuries for emergency workers, making sure that these dedicated Victorians can access mental health support the moment they need it.

Ensuring veterans have the support they need as they transition back into civilian life, Labor will provide \$1 million to Veterans in Construction to secure work for 100 veterans across our major projects and other private sector jobs.

This new investment is in addition to the Victorian veterans who are already contributing to the Andrews Labor Government's massive infrastructure program, removing level crossings and building road and rail across our state.

Today's announcement recognises that the skills and experience veterans gain in the ADF are second-to-none, and ensures these Victorians can continue their service to our state.

We will also provide \$1 million for the Vietnam Veterans Association to support their members across the state. A further \$200,000 will go to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum in Phillip Island, allowing more school students to learn about the conflict, with some 60,000 Australians serving our nation and 521 who never made it home.

Labor will also recognise the sacrifice our diggers made, and continue to make, by introducing a weekly Last Post Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, commemorating every Victorian who has served our nation.

It will be an opportunity for family members, veterans and school students to attend and pay their respects to the men and women who answered their country's call and fought for the freedom Australia enjoys today.

Today and every day, we remember those whose service has afforded us the freedoms we enjoy today.

### Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

*“With this investment, we’ll make Victoria our nation’s leader in the treatment of post-traumatic stress. Most importantly, we’ll make sure those men and women never have to face that battle on their own.”*

*“Our veterans have always been there for us and we’ll always be there for them.”*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Veterans John Eren

*“It’s only right that we give the men and women who’ve served our nation the support they need as they transition back into civilian life.”*

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