

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
7 – 8 OCTOBER 2018

ATTENDANCE

Members: Michael von Berg (RARC), Brian Howard (RARC), Trevor Dixon (RARC), Pat McIntosh (RARC), Phil Thompson (RARC), Bob Weir (RARA NSW), Dave McDonald (RARA QLD), Peter Fraser (RARA VIC), Rod Graham (RARA SA), Jack Babbage (RARA WA), Stephen Dunn (RARA ACT), Andrew Clinckaberry (1 RARA), Gordon Hurford (2 RARA), Bob Dabinett (3 RARC), Alan Price (4 RARA), Roger Wainwright (5 RARA), Graham Smith (6 RARA), Mick Garraway (7 RARA), Klaus Scheuermann (8 RARA), Doug McGrath (9 RARA), Greg Decker (8/9 RARA), Steve Brumby (5/7 RARA), Merv Dicton (2/4 RARA), Clem Russell (RARA QLD) and Ted Chitham (RARC).

Observers: Paul Sexton (Overwatch Australia)

Guest Speakers: DVA Minister Hon Darren Chester MP, DVA Secretary Liz Cosson AM CSC , DVA Repatriation Commissioner and RAR Colonel Commandant Maj Gen Mark Kelly AO DSC (Retd), RAR Regimental Colonel Brigadier Jason Blain DSC CSC. Mr Paul Sexton (Overwatch Australia), Ray Martin (Operation Compass) and Dr Stephanie Hodson VVCS – Open Arms

ITEM 1 - OPENING

The President, Michael von Berg, welcomed delegates and declared the Meeting open at 1.35 pm 7th October 2016.

ITEM 2 – SETTLE THE AGENDA

Settled

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS NCM (9-10 October 2017)

Resolved that the Minutes of the 2017 NCM be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Carried

ITEM 4 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolved that matters arising would be addressed in other Agenda Items.

Carried

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

1. **President.**

Michael von Berg emphasised the RARA's increasing prominence as a respected and influential voice of both the RAR Family and the wider veterans' community alone and in association with ADSO in advocacy direct representations to the Government and the Parliament. Both at the State and Federal levels our advice is sought by the politicians. He highlighted our representative roles specifically in DVA's National Forums: PMAC, ESORT with himself, The Younger Veterans Forum with Phil Thompson and The Operations Working Party with Clem Russell. At political level due to the way that we present our issues and the numbers of members we represent at RAR level and a collective ADSO level we are taken very seriously and treated with the appropriate respect. We don't always win but at least we are listened to. At all times we are apolitical unless at what we thinks is an important issue where we are not getting the required traction or attention we have no option than to make it political through the Opposition and the Cross Benchers.

2. **Secretary.**

Ted Chitham highlighted some items from his report particularly the need for greater involvement in well-being support to all RAR Family persons and responses to requests for input to representation issues to Government.

3. **Associations' Reports - States/Territories and Battalions.**

State and Battalion reports were noted with a common continuing concern for difficulties related to membership growth particularly with the younger transiting veterans, succession planning and financial viability. The close relationship with the parent Battalions was pleasing. **Some States Associations are concerned for their future viability**

Hori Howard summarised their reports. *"The main theme was the need to attract younger veterans to our associations. It was reaffirmed that our policy is that those leaving the service should as a matter of priority join their Battalion Associations, but if there happens not to be an active Association in their home state, they should join the State Association so that they can still continue to be members of the RAR family. It was also confirmed that those Associations which had close links with the serving Battalions were the strongest. This*

is seen as the best way to get through to those leaving the service. RARA support is available to all who have served in the Regiment and their families.”

4. National Memorial Walk.

Dave McDonald (President RARAQ and Administration Officer NMW) reported that the Walk remains a showpiece and is well maintained by Dads' Army with good support from the Gallipoli Barracks' based 6 RAR and 8/9 RAR . He identified the ageing Dads' Army volunteers and the pressing need for younger volunteers. The heightened security access to Gallipoli Barracks continues to adversely affect visits to the Walk.

Mike thanked the RAR Battalions and RAR Associations for their annual subscription contribution to the NMW's financial maintenance. He noted that the Regimental Colonel Jason Blain had arranged a \$3,500 donation to the Walk from the Infantry Corps Trust Fund. Jason will be visiting the Walk before the end of the year to meet and discuss future financial support.

The Touch Screen is nearing completion. The lack of digitise support from the Div Topo Survey was disappointing, forcing us to revert to manual means. The hope was to have it operational before Remembrance Day.

5. RAR Bibliography

The Secretary noted that the planned on line briefing from our Registrar Russell Linwood's was cancelled because of his wife's illness. Ted highlighted both the Bibliography's historical and research importance and the contribution that everyone can make to identifying and reporting RAR references not already discovered. The concept is to establish in time a Regimental Library in the most suitable location. Russell is to be commended for his commitment and results to date.

6. RAR Council Meeting 2018

At the RAR Council meeting this year where I have been attending for some 8 years I was only given the opportunity to present my RARA report and not included in any other discussions or presentations. In my view a complete waste of time and money to spend three days at the Inf Centre at my cost for a 30 minute presentation and a formal dinner also at my cost and no further involvement. Next year if the format is of a similar nature I propose to check in with HOC and if so I will submit a written report which can be read out by DHOC. Having been cleared at the highest levels through my previous activities and the talks were about trucks next year I will prepare a written report.

**ITEM 5A –2018 BRIEFING RAR, INFANTRY CORPS CONFERENCE, ARMY & ADF
MATTERS – BRIGADIER JASON BLAIN DSC CSC REGIMENTAL COLONEL**

Jason Blain has been asked to provide text

ITEM 6 – ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR VETERANS’ AFFAIRS – HON DARREN CHESTER MP

The Minister spoke on current DVA transformation activities and well-being activities and answered questions.

Of particular interest was his apparent willingness to look at funding non-clinical trials to assess their efficacy in treating veterans. Programs like Trojans Trek, Survive to Thrive and Veterans Care could be beneficiaries of this.

ITEM 7 – DVA BRIEFINGS

1. DVA Secretary - Liz Cosson AM CSC

The Secretary spoke of her family’s military experience and her own military career which gave her a very good understanding of the issues veterans face in the military/civilian environments.

She emphasised DVA’s operating principles:

- * Veterans’ First with a focus on people and not claims;
- * Understand the unique nature and impact of military service;
- * Concentrate on wellness not illness;
- * Respect and recognition.

The Secretary also highlighted the transition of the Department to recognising all veterans from Day 1 of their service not only the ones who make a claim when they present with symptoms, and that DVA has conducted reviews of all service experiences to pre-determine liability for injury removing the burden of proof from Veterans.

Her replies to question were frank and honest

2. DVA Repatriation Commissioner – Mark Kelly AO DSC

The commissioner spoke on relevant matters.

As the RAR Colonel Commandant he briefed on earlier RAR commemorations and the coming 70th RAR Anniversary activities in Canberra.

3. VVCS – “Open Arms” – Dr Stephanie Hodson

Dr Hodson spoke on the VVCS and its new branding name. Nothing in terms of service delivery and counselling will change.

President's Comment There appears to have been very little consultation in this matter at the grass roots veteran level. The jury is still out in relation to the rebranding which has been researched through very small focus groups. The decisions however have been made; the new brand image is out there so we will need to see how it is received by the broader veteran community.

ITEM 8 – DVA NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORA

1. Prime Minister's Advisory Committee – Mental Health

Our President (Michael von Berg) advised his appointment term concludes in Dec 2019 which will be a six years period on this Council.

He reported that the Council's primary strategic concentration has been in the "transition" space where poor and inadequate transition experienced by individuals has led to serious personal issues resulting in some cases to suicide, homelessness, financial hardship and even incarceration. The Council is trying to ease the pressures in this area through meaningful employment opportunities, further studies, conversion of military skills to civilian equivalents, improving and speeding up processes and a compact (covenant) with the Parliament and the broader community to reach out and assist veterans and their families.

2. ESO Round Table

The President reported that the ESORT is an effective and beneficial conduit between the Government, principally DVA and the ESO community.

As members we are seeking continuous review and improvements to ensure that there is a very strong caucus and support collectively of members on major matters of concern. The ESORT members and the ADSO members meet the afternoon prior to an ESORT meeting to discuss matters of importance which are to be raised the following day at the ESORT meeting. There is strength in numbers and if the total membership is behind a particular issue it is very difficult for DVA and the Minister to ignore providing it is covered in current legislation.

The Veteran Centric Program we have been a part of for the last three years is starting to show incredible improvements. Liz Cosson as the newly appointed Secretary of DVA is incredibly supportive and will make a difference.

3. Younger Veterans - Contemporary Needs Forum

Phil Thompson our RARC representative was absent on other duties with the DVA Minister so was unable to report. He will provide text on the meetings and report on current issues to be sent separately.

4. [Operations Working Party matters](#)

Clem Russell passionately reported as follows:

“The OWP has been hampered in its very important role due to a significant number of members who do not have direct experience in the provision of advocacy support relating to compensation and pension matters impacting current and former veterans and their eligible dependents. This is not a DVA problem. It has resulted from the required selection process being ignored by some ESO’s. Our concern has been noted but I am not optimistic things will change in the short term.

Communication between the existing levels of National Consultative Fora is virtually non-existent. Without this vital interaction there are considerable gaps in some information being used to form advice up and down the chain to levels determining policies and implementing operating processes with, at times, negative results.

There is a concern on my part as representative of the RARC with the lack of use of the OWP as a medium of addressing identified problems, difficulties and concerns in the operation and/or conduct of the core business of DVA.

We are asked to provide submissions on any concerns for discussion at the meetings (three per year). To date I have received only two from across the associations. My own involvement in the advocacy sphere has been my guide to concerns raised but I can’t appropriately serve on your behalf without your input.

Raise your points through the Secretary or Chair for their direction to me and I will take them forward. My only request is that you ensure accuracy and direct evidence is provided. Hearsay is no good. The credibility of the Corporation as an effective link in the chain of improvement of service to the troops depends on our case. I don’t fire blank ammunition.”

The President thanked Clem for his report and encouraged delegates to respond to Clem’s requests for input.

ITEM 9 – ADVOCACY UPDATE

- **ADSO & Fair Go Campaign** briefing included:
 - Military Covenant
 - Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC)
 - Superannuation (DFRDB & MSBS)
 - Mefloquine
 - TPI/SR & Disability Compensation Payments
 - Mental Health

ADSO is finalizing its policy objectives for the coming Federal Election in 2019: most likely to be Superannuation (DFRDB & MSBS), TPI/SR & Disability Compensation Payments and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC). The Fair Go Campaign will take the approved policy objectives and prepare the action plans for implementation through its supporters' network.

The ADSO is at the stage now where it proposes to incorporate as a separate corporate entity. This will facilitate a democratic process through membership, a shareholders/members agreement and a code of conduct or rules for the 22 current members. The Foundation Members will have effective control so that it cannot be hijacked by any fringe ESO or rogue element. The purpose is to be in the position to secure funding from DVA and corporate sponsorship to fund central secretarial, research and travel and accommodation costs where required.

This is advancement towards a One Voice representation of the veteran community to the Government and Parliament

- **ESORT ESO Collaboration**

This activity is being picked up by the ADSO above and as far as we are concerned the previous attempt by others to have some form of ESO collaboration at this time is in hibernation. The current Productivity Commission inquiry may have some recommendations as to ESO and their place in the veterans mix.

- **RCB.**

Ted Chitham briefed on progress with support being given by Senate crossbenchers KAP's Fraser Anning, AUP's Brian Burston, PHONP's Pauline Hanson and Peter Georgiou and Centre Alliance Senators Griff and Patrick. This morning the Minister agreed to a meeting with the RCB Review Group

In the discussion opposition to the RARC's involvement (endorsement) was expressed by some delegates principally RARA ACT and 5/7 RARA.

It was explained that this issue:

- was being carried and funded by the RCB veterans themselves who have :
 - discovered compelling evidence from national and international sources
 - had two separate and gratuitous legal advices from different source that encourages action in the courts
 - their own website and facebook sites
- was endorsed by the RARC, RAAFA and DFWA for an independent inquiry

The principle historic issue is one of honesty and transparency by the Government of the day and those that have followed in perpetuating the "untruth" that the RCB was deployed to Butterworth and Malaya on a training rotation when in fact all evidence supports the fact that the RCB was deployed to protect a strategic asset in a hostile still environment. The untruth is denying veterans of their entitlements and proper place historically of their role during that time.

The discussion highlighted the need for the national council each year to discuss relevant issues and workshop the priorities for advocacy in the next period. State and Battalion Associations would serve their members best by providing push polling activities to ascertain both the issues that their members are interested in and the level of support to prosecute them.

ITEM 10 – ASSOCIATED REPORTS

1. Trojans Trek

Trojans Trek is going from strength to strength as a successful program of changing people's lives who are affected by PTSD and other mental health issues. Many years of advocating for financial support from DVA for this program is continually refused on the basis that the program is not "evidence based" which is completely untrue. It is evidence based but in the minds of DVA the sample tested is too small, which is unfair as the program can only cover the numbers assisted based on financial capability which operates on an annual to annual basis. TT is unable to plan long term due to a lack of long term funding but some comments made by the Minister in relation to a special fund that is proposed may give TT another opportunity.

2. Overwatch Australia

Paul Sexton is an OA Director and previously the national operations manager. He is based in Brisbane. He is a pioneer of the initial establishment of Overwatch RAR which has today expanded to Overwatch Australia with coverage for all military services (Navy, Army and Air Force) and within those into Corps, Units, ships and squadrons

Attached as Annex B is a dot point summary of his presentation. The President thanked Paul for his presentation.

3. Survive to Thrive Nation

Dane Christison has taken his online PTSDS peer-to-peer support program to the next level since our last meeting. The initial clinical review by the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation indicated that the program was successful in treating PTSD and other mental health illnesses. In the last 12 months Dane has been in discussions with the Phoenix Foundation (DVA's medical authority) to conduct a full-scale peer reviewed trial to confirm the initial findings. Our application to the Supporting Younger Veterans Grant program to fund this trial was unsuccessful however Survive

to Thrive Nation has not only negotiated with DVA to pay for this with different funds, they have also been in discussion with Defence to implement the program in transition and pre-transition to both rehabilitate trained soldiers to return to work or discharge them healthy and able to participate in employment post service.

4. Veterans Care Association (VCA)

VCA was established by Deacon Gary Stone to support returning veterans and their families to overcome PTSD and other challenges in returning to civilian life. It acts as a central hub for veterans' services, bringing together traditional medical practitioners, complimentary/holistic practitioners, therapists, counsellors and more to support good health and vitality.

Ted Chitham briefed on this Veterans Support Organisation (VSO) and highlighted its growth and success in receiving an \$80,000 Supporting Younger Veterans grant from DVA to employ a Life Coach. Bolton Clark is a VCA sponsor.

ITEM 11 – DISCUSSION – RARC ROAD MAP 2017-2022 PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENTS AND RARC STRATEGIC PLANNING 2018-2025

Pat McIntosh led a review of the progress with the RARA Service Development Road Map 2018-2025. He advised council members that the framework was predominantly used in business and it had been adapted for use by the Association. Importantly, work needs to progress on all three horizons but Horizon 2 and 3 cannot be completed until work on the preceding horizons had been concluded.

Most of the discussion centred around revising the timeframes for action. The key priorities are to open up membership to all former and current members of the RAR and their families and to enable a simplified, seamless, digital communications network that will allow us to engage with our members. It was acknowledged that some associations may need to retain the non-digital means of communications and arrange separate events to cater for their cohorts. National agreed to obtain details of the drop shipping supplier [The Military Shop](#) being used by 1 RAR Association to see if it can service all of the associations.

As the Roadmap is designed to simplify the functions of the associations so as make succession planning easier it is hoped that the Roadmap actions can be completed as soon as possible so that we can more effectively deal with the matters that are of concern to our members. The timeframes for action are shown in red on the revised Roadmap attached as Annex B.

Decision

The revised timeframes for action were agreed. There were no changes to the Roadmap.

The President thanked Pat and his Team and all delegates for their contribution.

ITEM 12 – COMMUNICATIONS DISCUSSION – THE EFFECTIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO REACH YOUR TAARGET AUDIENCE

Trevor Dixon conducted a presentation on communications that was designed to challenge members thinking in order to successfully implement the National Council members' operational strategies as agreed in the RARC Roadmap.

The session highlighted as a generalisation, that individuals focus on “events” to deliver camaraderie or commemorative activities in comparison to an identifiable need for Associations to better understand and promote the “issues” that are relevant to delivering on our wellbeing and advocacy obligations.

Discussion arising from the presentation centered on a greater need to communicate with all former members of the Regiment and their families to find out what their issues are; to confirm quantifiable numbers through push polling around those issues, advise on outcomes then bring the data to Board's attention at any time and the National Council so that we are advocating relevant issues that the members of our Regimental Family want us to be pursuing.

Decision

Associations need to greatly enhance their bottom up relationship with the Regimental Family while maintaining the existing top down communication channels.

Note: At the end of the presentation it was highlighted that this was not a mutually exclusive process; individuals and small interest groups issues can and should still be advocated “within the tent”. The big-ticket items are the ones that should be broadly communicated as a National body so that our RAR Family understands our relevance to them.

The President thanked Trevor for leading this discussion and all delegates for their contribution.

ITEM 13 – RESOLUTIONS

1. RARA WA – A Day to Recognise and Honour the Service of Veterans, Post-Vietnam.

The Resolution was tabled and discussed with identification that there was already consideration within Defence. The President requested that WA leave the Resolution to the Board to refine it. WA delegate agreed.

Action: RARC Board

ITEM 14 – PRESENTATION – OPERATION COMPASS

Ray Martin presented details of the program which is a Commonwealth Department of Health trial conducted through the Northern Australia Primary Health Care Network. It is a grass-roots community- wide campaign aimed at optimizing well-being within the ex- ADF community. The campaigns are designed to address and reduce the rate of suicides and increase positive well-being through connection to life in the Townsville post-ADF.

ITEM 15 - GENERAL BUSINESS

RARA SA – DVA WITHDRAWAL OF GYM SERVICE

Rod Graham had raised this as a question to the DVA Secretary during her presentation: She had explained the situation and invited a submission from the RARC.

Decision: RARA SA accepted responsibility to submit the submission

RARA WA – DEATH NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS

Jack Babbage sought information on what other RAR Associations do.

Ted Chitham advised that in the States where the Battalion Associations are strong they provide the Death Notice of their former RAR member who has passed away. In Queensland's case the RARA Qld found itself duplicating the Notice. So it now provides an RAR Association 'Sash', which goes across the Coffin and just prior to the burial, or cremation, is retrieved and presented to the next of kin of the deceased. Many Battalion Associations have their own sashes and apply the same procedure.

Jack advised that because in WA they do not have strong Battalion Associations the RAR Association (WA Branch) prefers to pay homage to a deceased member with a Death Notice in the West Australian newspaper, which contains the RAR badge.

8/9 RARA - NMW AMBASSADORS

Greg Decker proposed the appointment of Ambassadors to help overcome the inability to recruit volunteers to Dads Army for the NMW. The Ambassadors along with the Patron would be responsible for raising the awareness of the RAR NMW. Their role would be simply promoting the NMW to past servicemen and women.

The details would be refined and comments sought from the National Council members.

The President thanked Greg and 8/9 RARA for their proposal

MIA KOREA

Roger Wainwright, our representative on the Korea MIA Working Party, reported on developments since the USA/North Korean Agreement for the recovery of war dead remains from North Korea. Noted, that the MOU between Australia and the USA had been signed. It allows identification, through DNA sampling human remains from the War held by the US Army that may be Australians.

The President thanked Roger for his representation.

THE VETERANS FAMILY TOOL KIT VIDEO SERIES

Pat McIntosh introduced the Bolton Clark series of videos which aims to inform and educate current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and importantly families and friends, about mental health. These videos cover post-traumatic mental health, avenues to treatment, and how to best support yourself and your loved one. The videos are designed to break down the stigma around seeking help, and include input from veterans, families, and experts in the field.

Read more and watch the videos [here](#)

The President thanked Pat McIntosh and Bolton Clark for their active support of veterans and their families.

DUTY FIRST MAGAZINE

Bob Weir (Editor) advised that the magazine was not viable in its present form and that consideration was being given to an electronic E News publication that may combine Infantry Corps, RAR, RARA and RAR Foundation News

DIRECTORS LIABILITY INSURANCE

Rod Graham (RARA SA) raised the question of the RARC having a policy that would cover the Flaherty defamation action against Michael von Berg (in his capacity as the RARA SA president) and suggested that the RARC should help fund MVB's legal costs and the mental and financial anguish these costs are having on him..

At this point Pat McIntosh was invited to take the Chair and both Michael von Berg and Rod Graham left the meeting room at 15.12 pm.

After detailed consideration of the matter **it was resolved that the RARC was to seek funding for legal advice to protect the good name and standing of the RARC**

Moved : Klaus Scheuermann (8RARA). Seconded: Peter Fraser (RARA VIC)
Carried with one abstention (RARAWA)

Action RARC Board (Trevor Dixon and Pat McIntosh)

At 15.40 pm Michael von Berg and Rod Graham re-joined the meeting and were advised of the approved minute. Michael von Berg resumed the Chair

CROWD FUNDING

Trevor spoke on the subject and would prepare a Discussion paper for consideration by the Board

Decision: The RARC Board to initiate the facility.

The Board discussion paper is attached as an Annex C

ITEM 15 – NEXT MEETING

RARA SA offered to host the meeting in Adelaide

ITEM 16 – CLOSURE

The President thanked the delegates for their contribution to the Meeting's success and support to the RARA and RAR Corporation. He wished their Associations continued growth wellbeing and success.

He thanked the Department of Veterans Affairs for their continuing financial support with the Grant-In-Aid of \$10,000 to fund the AGM and NCM expenses

Mike thanked the RARA Old, especially Bob Dabinett (3 RARC) for his emergency support behind the scenes to allow a successful meeting.

He also reiterated that the RARC is there to serve and support the State RAR and Battalion Associations. He stated that we were at a generational period of flux and that we should all try to attract more younger veterans to get involved at all levels. We have all come too far in our journey and must do all we can to "in keeping the spirit alive".

The Meeting closed at 17.10 pm 8th October 2018

Michael von Berg
Chairman
18th November 2018

Ted Chitham
Director & Public Officer
18th November 2018

Annexures:

A – Briefing Paper RAR Regimental Colonel

B – Presentation Notes – Overwatch Australia

ANNEX A TO
NCM MINUTES

**2018 BRIEFING RAR, INFANTRY CORPS CONFERENCE, ARMY & ADF MATTERS
BRIGADIER JASON BLAIN DSC CSC REGIMENTAL COLONEL**

To be provided separately

ANNEX B TO
NCM MINUTES

**OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA
PRESENTATION DOT POINT SUMMARY
By PAUL SEXTON**

- * RAR Overwatch was a Facebook group formed in 2013/14 after spate of suicides of members of RAR both past and present as a dedicated response communications net connected to the membership of the facebook group RAR Buddies.*
- * The strength of the group was identified as the interconnectivity of the members of RAR that when used as a network, provides close to a 3 degrees of separation of anyone who served with the Regiment of 2Cdo, RAR and SASR.*
- * The group extended its model to other corps and RAN and RAAF (i.e. RAAC Overwatch, RAE Overwatch etc) in 2015 to maximise the networks to identify mutual friends and colleagues of those in need coordinated by members of likeminded corps and services and we rebranded as Overwatch Australia as an umbrella term for the net encompassing all Facebook groups under a command channel of coordinators from al*

Overwatch corps/services groups under the name Task Force Overwatch. With channel named Situation Room where emergency responses that are sensitive to a responder's privacy are maintained at all times.

** As of Oct2018, Overwatch Australia has a volunteer responder list of 5000 both domestically and internationally. We have interlinked with members of the veteran community in Allied countries such as US, UK and NZ which increases our reach for ADF members globally. We reciprocate this allowing allied veterans organisations to use our resources in Australia to respond to theirs in need.*

** All volunteer responders are encouraged to participate in Mental Health First Aid courses such as Op Life and ASSIST suicide prevention courses. VVCS has been active in allowing our members and families to participate free of cost.*

** We allow all members to choose their own level of involvement from three basic levels of membership,*

1- Response coordinators who lead responses from initiation to post-response follow ups

2- First Responders who volunteer to be available locally for coffee meetups through to knocking on doors of those identified as at risk.

3- Observers who monitor their own Facebook pages and general community for any signs of distress, psychologically emotionally, physically, financially and their relationships.

• Observers conduct their daily personal life outside of Overwatch and if they identify a warning signal in a friend which they can't adequately respond to themselves, they flag this in their respective corps page to escalate the situation to others to fight for information in regards to location, phone number, level of response needed in conjunction with a response coordinator, who then dispatches a first responder to make face to face contact with the member in need and report back to Overwatch coordinator and determine which ESO or medical service is best suited to assist and assist the member in need to warm refer.

** All our members are trained and led to identify credible and imminent threats of harm to self or others and call 000 immediately in those cases for welfare checks by emergency services.*

** We always endeavour to initiate follow up checks by members known military support network in order to monitor and support in an ongoing capacity before we stand down.*

** Or global network has allowed such speed from initial post in Overwatch to face to face response as 25mins in Capital cities in Australia to 35mins in Arizona to 44mins in Rural North Thailand. Each response is different in response times but the above are an indication of how fast our responders can act under the Overwatch model.*

**Our major operational risks we have identified and are working on are regulatory compliance, privacy control and personnel management of our response coordinators across the 9+ channels.*

ANNEX C TO
NCM MINUTES

CROWD FUNDING A DISCUSSION PAPER

The purpose of the crowd funding is to have funds available to obtain a legal position on, or to defend, matters that have the capacity to bring into disrepute the good standing of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) or its Associations, including:

- People erroneously challenging the legitimate history of the RAR.
- People falsely promoting themselves as having served in (not with) the RAR, thus undermining the legitimate service of members of the RAR.
- Directors and officers of the RAR Corporation or Associations challenging false or defamatory accusations against the RAR or its Associations, or defending a legitimate position taken on behalf of the majority of members.

Policy

The RAR Corporation and Associations have a responsibility to preserve the good name of the RAR for former and current serving members and future generations. Any accusations made about the documented history of the Battalions of the Regiment must be investigated. Likewise, if it becomes known that a person is claiming to have served in the Regiment and there is legitimate doubt, the matter must be investigated. Further, in order to properly represent the members of the RAR, its Directors and Officers will need to challenge false or defamatory accusations against the RAR or its Association, and may need to pursue claims, or challenge the official position on, matters that impact the health and wellbeing of current or former members of the RAR.

Procedures

Battalion Association will be responsible for reviewing any Battalion documented history, including books. Unless it is an official history that has been commissioned by the Association, the historical account will not be endorsed by the Association but may be commended with a suitable disclaimer. Should a review of the historical account reveal inaccuracies, the inaccuracies should be referred back to the author in writing. The letter

referring to the inaccuracies should be sent to the RARC for legal review before sending. In the event that the historical account is challenged by other than the Association, it is a matter for the author to deal with the concerns unless it is an official history, in which case the Association will investigate the accusations and respond to the accuser/s in writing. Again, the letter should be sent to the RARC for legal review before sending.

If it becomes known that a person is claiming to have served in the Regiment and there is legitimate doubt, the matter must be investigated by the Battalion Association in the first instance. If the investigation determines that the claim seems to be false or inaccurate, the Battalion Association is to send a full account of the claim being made, and the evidence that the claim is false, to the RARC. The RARC will initiate appropriate action after receiving legal advice.

Any evidence of a false or defamatory accusation being made against the RAR or its Associations is to be referred to the RARC. The RARC will consider the severity of the accusation and will recommend a course of action. The RARC will seek legal advice before pursuing the course of action.

All matters that impact the health and wellbeing of current or former members of the RAR that the majority of our members want the Association to pursue will be dealt with by the National Executive, either directly for RAR specific matters, or through peak bodies for broad national issues. The RARC will seek legal advice on the action proposed should it perceive any risk.

Trevor Dixon & Pat McIntosh
15th October 2018