

NSW Veterans Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2030

Report card

1 January to 31 December 2025



1 The service and sacrifice of veterans is honoured throughout the community

Commemorative services at the Anzac Memorial – 1.0 and 1.1



- Over 27,840 attendees at 13 commemorative services, including the Daily Service of Remembrance
- Hundreds of wreaths laid in honour of service
- Over 15,000 stars cast in remembrance.

Premier’s veterans’ reception – 1.4



Approximately 98% of survey respondents felt that their service was honoured by the 2025 Veterans’ Reception.

2 The diversity and contribution of the veteran community is recognised

Contemporary veterans memorial – 1.6

Apr 2025	Design announced
Jun 2025	Development application submitted
Aug 2025	Council granted consent
Oct 2025	Construction tender released to six invited construction companies
Dec 2025	Tender recommendation finalised.

NSW Women’s Week reception for women veterans – 1.7

What survey respondents said about the event:



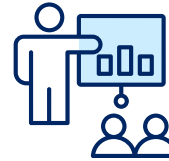
96% Recognised women’s Defence service

96% Created opportunities for women veterans to connect and network

100% Indicated that they would like to attend again next year.

NSW Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Regional Youth Program – 1.10

- Second Regional Youth Program delivered, allowing Indigenous students to visit Sydney and attend a commemorative service
- 100% of teacher participants said the Program furthered their knowledge of Indigenous service.



3 Knowledge and understanding of veterans’ contributions and the impact of wars on Australia is increased

Premier’s Anzac Memorial Scholarship – 1.13



All surveyed Scholars who attended the tour to the Republic of Korea and Singapore reported an increased understanding of veterans’ contributions and the impact of wars on Australian society.

Anzac Memorial education program – 1.16



- 13 education programs offered to schools
- 8,312 student and teacher participants, an 8.5% increase from the previous year
- 139 workshops delivering a 16% growth
- Family Discovery Trail delivered
- Seven new public programs introduced.

Veteran Community Grants Program 2025/26 – 1.17

- 109 applications received
- 70 projects funded across 62 suburbs, 48 local government areas (LGAs).



4 Our war memorial heritage is protected and conserved

Community War Memorials Fund 2025/26 – 1.19



- 55 applications received
- 27 grants awarded to 25 organisations across 25 LGAs.

NSW War Memorials Register – 1.21

- 95 previously unregistered memorial submissions added
- 141 memorial and veteran updates completed on the Register.



Employment and Training Outcomes 1-3

- 1 Veterans and their partner have tools and resources to assist them in participating in employment

Veterans Employment Program (VEP) – 2.0



247 veterans employed within NSW Government in 2025, bringing the total to 1,521 veterans employed since October 2022, exceeding the interim target of 1,500 and remaining on track to reach 2,000 veterans employed by 2026.

New resources to support veterans applying for NSW Government jobs – 2.1

- Animated video produced encouraging veterans to self-identify during the NSW Government job application to improve data capture
- Application and interview tips published on VEP's website and social media.



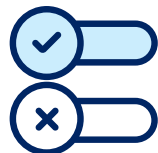
Veterans Employment Program – engagement – 2.2



- 46,656 views across the VEP website
- 94.47% website engagement rate
- 31,292 Facebook post views
- Over 37,000 impressions on LinkedIn.

Promote employment opportunities to veterans – 2.2

NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) and Anzac Memorial recognised as a Veteran Employer of Choice by the Australian Government.



TAFE NSW Ranks to Recognition Program – 2.4

786 veterans registered for program support.

Top courses:

- Project Management
- Leadership & Management
- Training & Assessment



56% of veterans chose to study online via TAFE Digital.

86% of registrants are veterans, while 14% are partners.

- 2 Organisations understand that veterans have transferable skills and capabilities

Local Government employment partnership with the Veterans Employment Program – 2.6

10 local governments formally committed to advance veteran employment, bringing the total to 36 local government employment partnerships.



VEP awarded the Australian Government's 2025 Best Veteran Employment Commitment Initiative.

Veteran Employment Roundtable – 2.7

- 21 organisations attended the sixth annual roundtable
- Hosted by the Minister for Veterans at the Anzac Memorial on 8 October 2025
- The theme was to drive support for regional veterans.



- 3 Peer networks connect veterans to information in the workplace

Public service – community of peers – 2.8



- 103 new veteran employment champions expanded the NSW Government's Veteran Employment Champion Network to 614 Champions across the public service
- Champions include Hiring Managers, Human Resource personnel, veterans and those who have an interest in supporting veterans.

Veterans' annual networking event – 2.9

- Approximately 52 veterans and NSW Government Champions gathered on 23 April 2025 at the Anzac Memorial for the annual networking event to strengthen veteran employment
- Guest speakers included the Minister for Veterans and representatives from Transport NSW, the NSW Sheriff's Office and Fire and Rescue NSW.



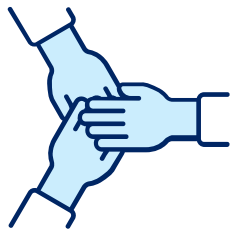
- 1** Government, within NSW and across Australia, is better coordinated so that veterans can receive support wherever they live

Government coordination and connection – 3.1

Four meetings were held to drive coordinated action for veterans and their families across 14 NSW Government agencies.



Consideration of Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission recommendations – 3.2



- Whole-of-government response to NSW-relevant recommendations, published July 2025
- Ongoing work to support the Commonwealth to implement recommendations.

Commonwealth State and Territory Committee – 3.5

OVA participated in four Commonwealth-led meetings advancing Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission recommendations nationwide.



- 2** The veteran community is engaged and connected to trusted information

Veterans forum – 3.9

Hosted by the Minister for Veterans and OVA in Orange and attended by:

- The local veteran community
- The National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare
- TAFE NSW
- Service NSW
- Office of Responsible Gambling
- The Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Local Ex-Service Organisations



Anzac Memorial – veteran community participation – 3.10

- 50% of venue hire bookings directly supported Defence, veteran or Ex-Service Organisations.



- Soldier in Residence program in collaboration with the Australian Army History Unit in its third year.

- 27 lectures delivered by external organisations on military history including the Royal United Services Institute NSW, Military History NSW and Family and Friends of the First AIF.



- 30% increase in the share of total sales from veteran made or veteran owned products.

Newsletter and social media – 3.11

- Four newsletters distributed by OVA
- 1,817 subscribers as at 9 December 2025
- 271,015 views and 5,082 interactions on OVA's Facebook posts
- Over 105,000 impressions and over 2,100 interactions on OVA's LinkedIn posts.



Service NSW page – 3.12



Service NSW webpage tailored specifically for veterans and their families received 16,857 visits.

Connection to transitioning Australian Defence Force serving members – 3.13

- 19 transition seminars across NSW attended by VEP, including 8 face-to-face seminars
- 641 veterans engaged.



Veterans and Families Hubs – 3.16



- Brokered by OVA, Richmond Court House announced as new location for Veterans' and Families' Hub to be delivered by RSL LifeCare
- Hub will enable Ex-Service Organisations and government providing a wide range of support services to veterans and their families.

Support Outcome 1

- 1 Support is available for veterans and their families who may require additional assistance

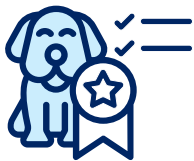
Health cultural awareness – 4.2

- Macksville District Hospital recognised for its cultural competency and its support for veteran employment through being named a finalist in the National Veteran Employment Awards in the category of Best Regional Veteran Employment Initiative
- Macksville District Hospital first hospital in Australia to be formally recognised as a Veteran Employer of Choice by the Australian Government.



Assistance dogs for veterans – 4.3

- 12 dogs graduated from Defence Community Dogs program at Bathurst Correctional Centre and were successfully partnered with a veteran, marking the beginning of their life-changing journey together
- 12 dogs training to become Assistance Dogs.



- 800 dog training and welfare support calls to veterans, made by Defence Community Dogs
- 140 virtual dog training sessions delivered.

Rent Choice Veterans – 4.4



In 2024-25:
72 veteran families at risk of homelessness were assisted by Rent Choice Veterans.

Link2Home Veterans – 4.5

In 2024-25:
1,167 veterans contacted the helpline for housing assistance and were provided with information, referrals and support.



Development of a Corrective Services Veteran Action Plan – 4.9



- Action Plan drafted with approval process underway
- Provision of veteran resources for Corrective Services NSW veteran staff
- Strengthened collaboration with OVA, RSL LifeCare and RSL NSW
- Commencement of a RSL NSW/ Corrective Services pilot for advocacy support staff which has been held at five correctional centres.

Support for Problem Gambling – 4.10

- New resources by the Office of Responsible Gambling for veterans and their families shared in April 2025 to provide support for those who may be affected by problem gambling
- 753 page views of factsheets about supporting veterans exhibiting signs of gambling harm
- 552 downloads of resources providing support and education.



Research partnership – shaping support services for women veterans – 4.12



- 17 subject matter experts representing government, Ex-Service Organisations and academia formed an Expert Advisory Group and designed a survey and one-on-one interviews for women veterans across NSW
- 109 survey responses were received
- 18 interviews conducted by Monash University
- 43 people attended a webinar showcasing the project.

Supporting veterans' families enrol in public schools – 4.13

The policy and enrolment form changed in 2025 to explicitly enable the children of Defence members to be enrolled in public schools without a posting address from 1 January 2026.

