



Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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HEALTH AND WELFARE FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY VETERANS

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello has opened a forum in Sydney that discussed the health and welfare needs of contemporary war veterans and their families.

Mr Dominello, who organised the forum on 17 June, said it was the first time a NSW government had brought key decision makers together to discuss the care of younger veterans returning from conflicts and peacekeeping missions such as Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Tens of thousands of Australian servicemen and women have served Australia overseas in the past decade.

"The forum was a valuable opportunity to start a conversation about the challenges facing contemporary veterans. Discussions touched on a wide range of issues, such as mental and physical health, family, and transitioning to civilian life," Mr Dominello said.

Support and welfare organisations represented at the day-long forum held at North Bondi RSL, included RSL NSW and Soldier On. Topics discussed included assistance for families and widows and how organisations could collaborate to better support younger veterans.

"Although there are many great organisations working hard to assist contemporary veterans, too often they work in isolation from each other," Mr Dominello said.

The forum, chaired by James Brown, the Military Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, would assist the NSW Government to identify ways it could facilitate these organisations to pool their resources to provide better outcomes for veterans.

"This forum is a timely opportunity to determine what their needs are and how best to help them," Mr Brown said.

"As we close out Australian military operations in East Timor, the Solomon Islands, and Afghanistan it is important to show that the community is listening to the needs of veterans and helping them connect with the society they have served."

Mr Dominello said he looked forward to the forum Chair providing an update on potential outcomes that may assist younger veterans.

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