



**Geoff Lee**

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 27 August 2020

### **SUPPORTING VETERANS' FAMILIES IN LEGACY WEEK**

This weekend marks the start of Legacy Week, the annual appeal to support the families of veterans who have served for our country.

Acting Minister for Veterans Geoff Lee said Legacy Week is now in its 78<sup>th</sup> year and will be held this Sunday, 30 August to Saturday, 5 September 2020.

"The current social restrictions should not stop us from supporting this very worthwhile cause," Mr Lee said.

"Thousands of Australian men and women are currently serving overseas and Legacy stands ready to assist their families when needed."

Legacy President Gregory Wrate said Legacy has held a badge day since 1942 to raise funds to support the widows and families of veterans who have died, been severely injured or left with mental health issues as a result of their military service.

"This year will be tough with the reduced opportunity to do any face-to-face fundraising and the inability to engage with the public but the health of the community and our many volunteers and supporters is more important," Mr Wrate said.

"This Legacy Week, I am asking Australians to consider donating online to allow us to continue providing financial, educational and emotional support to our beneficiaries."

The funds raised from Legacy Week assist approximately 60,000 people with services such as counselling, housing, medical, advocacy and social support.

When Australian Defence Force soldier Major Michael Wiltshire died from a brain tumour at the age of 42, Legacy supported his widow Kerrie and two children, James and Emily.

"It could have all gone so differently without Legacy's support and influence," James said.

"We have had many strong role models come into our lives. I'm currently applying to join the Air Force and I doubt I would have had the confidence to go for it, if it wasn't for the encouragement of Legacy."

To donate online, please visit [www.legacyweek.com.au](http://www.legacyweek.com.au).

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