



## **The Hon Andrew Gee MP**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Federal Member for Calare

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 December 2021

### **GRANTS OPEN FOR OUR VETERAN COMMUNITY**

The 2021-22 rounds of the Veteran and Community Grants and Supporting Younger Veterans Grants are now open for applications.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the grants deliver valuable funding to local community organisations providing activities and services that support the wellbeing of veterans and their families.

"Recent grant funding has gone to a wide variety of support programs including wellness weekends and care packages for Defence members, fishing and sporting activities and even off-road racing," Minister Gee said.

"I recently had the opportunity to catch some waves with veterans from previous grant recipient, the Veteran Surf Project at Gerroa in New South Wales, and saw firsthand the truly remarkable positive impact it's having for local veterans.

"Their program brings veterans together, gets them talking, gets them active and gives them something to look forward to each week. It can be literally life changing for some of those who participate.

"With this latest round of funding, I hope we can support many more groups like this.

"We want to see applications for practical projects and activities that support safe, accessible environments for veterans and their families to enable social connections and improve wellbeing.

"These grants will help improve and expand existing services, build capacity for future projects, and raise awareness of the issues facing local veterans.

"I meet regularly with many ex-service organisations and have enormous respect for the critical role they play in providing mateship, advocacy and support."

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling** provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or [openarms.gov.au](http://openarms.gov.au). **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or [defence.gov.au/health/healthportal](http://defence.gov.au/health/healthportal). **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities. A small number of grants of up to \$150,000 are also available for projects that deliver wellbeing support services and activities of broad scale benefit to the veteran community.

The Australian Government is investing \$32 million this financial year alone in grant programs to help the many groups that provide complementary services to our veterans.

The 2021-22 grants rounds are now open online through the Community Grants Hub and close 20 January 2022. For information about how to apply for grants online, see the Community Grants Hub website: [www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au).

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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