



## **ANVVA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018**

**Next business Meeting - Swan Yacht Club  
11.00 am, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

We will again be assembling at Fremantle for the ANZAC day march on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Carole will be distributing parking vouchers for those requiring them. As our numbers have been dwindling in recent times, we have suggested that we use the small banner so we do not need to chase up six sailors to carry the large banner, which is quite difficult to carry in windy conditions. We will also need to get to the usual parking areas in good time before they close the adjacent roads.

Following the march we will as usual reserve an area at the Swan Yacht Club, where some liquid refreshments will be provided for our members and guests from 1200. (A paper bracelet will be provided to identify those entitled.) We will also participate in the ceremony held by the SYC later in the afternoon and Carole will lay a wreath there.

A buffet lunch may also be purchased from the galley.

Our Association has been affected by significant changes to Legislation in recent years, mainly which require our advocates to gain recognition of prior learning, or to undertake any new training as it becomes available under the new ATDP which provides ongoing certification to whatever level the advocate may reach.

As in the last three years, many cases, particularly relating to primary claims have been inordinately slow, but these have also affected s31, VRB requests and reconsiderations to Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC) in getting the required information from DVA to the investigating authority.

DVA has been proudly announcing several innovations on their website and newspaper, which they claim will speed the claim process for all veterans. On the other hand, it has been admitted in Parliament that many claims are being significantly delayed for various reasons, many taking as many as 140 days to process initial claims to a level where a decision can be made, then a further significant delay can occur in making an assessment, determining what action, if any, can be taken to assist the veteran.

DVA has been very understanding of our complaints and have tried to take on board all the problems we have raised, but with the fixed budget to maintain constant support to existing customers, very little is provided in extra allowances to every Government Department each year, they have little to offer other than to ask their workers to also try harder.

I am happy to announce that many previously frozen cases are again moving, with no less than 20 cases being resolved within this month so far, at least to a decision being made to move to the assessment phase, with three Special Rate cases confirmed last week. So I guess that we still have to be a little patient, and try to ensure that we keep appropriate records, so when something goes missing, we can provide decent copies to get processes back on track.

Thanks again to all our hard working office people and those who go out and visit our aged people most of whom who are probably not in such good shape as we like to believe we are.

Those advocates and those visiting clients please continue to record your travelling details and ensure copies of the details are forwarded to me at the end of June.

I have submitted the new BEST grant, to the new governing body for the 2018-19 financial year, which is now totally submitted electronically, which requires careful recalculation of all cases including progress made, as it is based upon details from the previous calendar year being transferred to the appropriate financial year. Lots of time is required to do this, so advocates, please ensure you record details so I can read them! My mind is still reeling!

Many regards,  
Trev

