



# Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA073

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

## WHAT ARE THE VIEWS OF TASMANIAN VETERANS?

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, will be in Hobart this Tuesday seeking the views of veterans on the best way to give them a more effective voice at the highest levels of government.

Minister Griffin said eight meetings are being held nation-wide to discuss the structure and role of the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters—a key election commitment.

“Around 550 veterans have come to share their views with me at my consultations so far, and I expect a good turnout at the Hobart meeting,” Mr Griffin said.

More than 100 individuals and organisations from all around Australia responded to a discussion paper on the Advisory Council released earlier this year.

“This impressive response has demonstrated very strong support for the Advisory Council and its role, but has also raised issues that need further discussion.

“During the parliamentary recess I am travelling to meet veterans in every state and territory to discuss these issues in person. I'm looking forward to hearing the always forthright views of the Tasmanian veteran and ex-service communities.

“There are a number of options on the table, including membership, appointment of the chair, how matters are referred to the Council, how it should operate and how it relates to my Department.

“The Government is also reviewing all consultation mechanisms between the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the broader defence and ex-service communities. This will also be discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

“I want to ensure the Council meets the needs of veterans and ex-service personnel before it's established later this year. These consultation meetings with veterans and the veteran community are essential to achieve that goal.

“I expect there will be a range of opinions and robust discussion, but I know that we share the goal of looking out for the best interests of all those who have served Australia in uniform.

“I encourage all veterans and members of the Tasmanian veteran community interested in the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

“Following these consultation meetings I intend to appoint the Advisory Council by the end of August.”

The meeting is on Tuesday 29 July 2008 from 10.00am to 12.00pm at the RAAF Memorial Centre, 61 Davey St Hobart. Further details of meetings and copies of submissions are available at [minister.dva.gov.au/PMAC/index.htm](http://minister.dva.gov.au/PMAC/index.htm).

**Meeting RSVPs: 03 6221 6772**

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