

A. GUIDELINES

1 Background and purpose

The Charitable Objects Fund (the Fund) was established with the primary purpose of providing charitable and welfare support to the veteran community and their families. Funds are allocated equally across the 10 Districts each year.

Additionally, the Fund is available to support activities associated with other Objects of the League.

These guidelines have been clarified for ease of interpretation as a result of a 2022 internal audit.

2 General

In accordance with the mission of RSL Queensland, the Fund should be used to provide for care, commemoration, and camaraderie endeavours to enable veterans and their families to live with dignity and respect.

Other sources of external funding e.g. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Government agencies, grants and community support avenues should be considered first, otherwise the request for assistance from the Fund may not be approved. Refer to section D for available external grants.

a. Guidelines

- (1) The distribution of the Fund is solely at the discretion of Districts on application using the application form or digitally on SKIP.
- (2) A Sub Branch should ensure the request for assistance aligns with and has a specific and verifiable link to one of the Objects of the League.
- (3) Sub Branches may be required to also contribute funds to the activity, as determined by the District.
- (4) Funding by Districts should be allocated with the aim of distributing a minimum of 60% for Veteran Welfare, defined by ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) as:

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“the provision of or access to service for veterans and their families who are socially disadvantaged or in need. It involves supporting social, emotional, and physical needs, as well as helping with the basic needs of shelter, food, medical care, and education”.

- (5) Direct financial support (including for payment of funeral expenses) to veterans and their families may require consideration of financial hardship.
- (6) Funds provided to Sub Branches and Districts must be acquitted quarterly, by the end of the following month.
- (7) The District President may approve the release of funds in the event of an emergency, to the value of \$5,000 (including GST) and must seek District Committee ratification at the next meeting.
- (8) If there is doubt whether applications conform with these guidelines, the District Board should seek advice from RSL Queensland – League Support Services (LSS).

3 Activities meeting the guidelines

a. Veteran welfare and support:

The services of RSL Queensland Service Delivery and the Department of Veteran Affairs should be considered before applying for assistance from the Fund. Examples of some of the activities the Fund may be used for, and which align with the Objects of the League are:

- (1) Provision of financial or general assistance or support to veterans or their families in need or at risk.
- (2) Assistance to veterans or their families to fund services to provide safe or secure accommodation e.g. repair of a veteran’s premises.
- (3) Visits to sick veterans and their families at home or in hospital, or to assess their needs.
- (4) Collaboration with other Sub Branches and ESOs to co-design programs and activities that support the veteran community.
- (5) Assistance with costs to run programs during Veterans’ Health Week in promotion of veteran good health and well-being.
- (6) Assistance to veterans and their families to attend relevant appointments or activities, where they are unable to afford the transport or are infirm or otherwise unable to arrange transport.
- (7) Training of Sub Branch members and volunteers to assist in their welfare activities including the Advocacy Training and Development Program, mental health and first aid

training for Districts or Sub Branches officers, as required for operational requirements and suicide awareness.

- (8) Provision of reasonable medical aids which enhance health, safety or well-being of veterans or the veteran community, particularly where an individual would not be otherwise able to afford the medical aid.
- (9) Activities to assist the integration of veterans and their families into community activities and civilian life to reduce social isolation and promote social connectedness.
- (10) Reasonable costs of hosting a Christmas function for veterans and volunteers.
- (11) Reasonable costs associated with funeral services, capped at \$7,500 (including GST).
- (12) Headstones for unmarked graves, capped at \$2,500 (including GST) per headstone.
- (13) Memorial boxes for Poppy Services.

b. Commemorative events:

- (1) Reasonable costs related to significant commemorative events.

“A significant commemorative event is an activity or celebration that marks a special occasion or milestone and is intended to honour and remember a person, group, or event of significance to the Defence family, including:

Memorials: *contributing to the building or maintaining of appropriate monuments or memorials or burial places dedicated to preserving the memory of a particular person, group, or event.*

Anniversaries: *celebrations marking the passing of a specified number of years since a significant event.*

Commemorative ceremonies: *formal events like Anzac Day or Remembrance Day ceremonies, held to commemorate important Defence events.”*

These activities are important because they serve as a way for us to reflect on our shared Defence history and heritage and to pay respect and tribute to those who have made significant contributions. See Object 4 of the League.

- (2) Purchases of wreaths for Sub Branch and District members.
- (3) Reasonable costs of meals and venue hire for significant Sub Branch or District birthdays, e.g.: 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 years, etc.
- (4) Reasonable meal costs for volunteers and residents of aged care facilities after a significant commemorative event.

- (5) Reasonable costs of transport and meals for cadets participating in significant ceremonial events as formations, members of catafalque parties etc.
- (6) Traffic control costs for commemorative ceremonies.
- (7) Reasonable costs of recording equipment to preserve memories of commemorative events.
- (8) Visits to schools or aged care facilities to conduct or participate in commemorative services.
- (9) Facilitate the Community Link program in schools.
- (10) Encourage interest in military and ANZAC history among school students.
- (11) Provide book prizes for appropriately themed competitions in schools.
- (12) Costs towards memorials at local state schools to encourage participation in commemorative events.
- (13) Reasonable costs of participating in, and equipment required to participate, if representing and participating in a significant veteran related sporting event.

c. Assets

- (1) Reasonable costs for the purchase and installation of access ramps to Sub Branch premises.
- (2) Establishing and maintaining memorials, memorial gardens, and burial grounds for veterans.
- (3) Providing memorial gardens and flagpoles to schools and aged care facilities for veteran commemoration.
- (4) Maintaining veteran and defence museums and memorabilia (only after an application for funding from the DVA Saluting Their Service program has been rejected).
- (5) Financial assistance for the purchase of vehicles that are used solely for veteran welfare after other avenues of funding have been exhausted.

d. Others

- (1) Establishment of a food bank and /or blankets for those in need in the community.
- (2) The purchase of first aid kits. Note: replenishment of the kit will require a separate COF application.
- (3) The purchase of automated external defibrillators (AED). Note: the repair and maintenance of the AED will require a separate COF application.
- (4) In conjunction with schools, breakfast programs for students in need.

- (5) Reasonable costs associated with establishing a web or social media presence (up to \$2,000, including GST) for a District or Sub Branch.

4 Activities not meeting the guidelines.

a. Veteran welfare and support

- (1) Requests for funding or cost reimbursement where assistance and funding are available from other sources e.g. DVA, government agencies, grants, and community support avenues.
- (2) Cash payments to individuals or groups.
- (3) Retrospective applications.
- (4) Donations to other organisations unless it is to support a specific veteran welfare activity.
- (5) Payment of RSL membership fees.

b. Commemorative events

- (1) Flags, banners, marquees, wreaths for dignitaries, and other items for commemorative events.
- (2) Entertainment not of a commemorative nature.
- (3) Trips to overseas commemorative sites.
- (4) Costs of reunions for military associations.
- (5) Digitally commissioned pieces e.g. video, graphic design for commemorative events.

c. Assets

- (1) Costs associating with procuring, maintaining, or repairing the assets of Sub Branches, Districts, or other organisations.
- (2) All assets (apart from ramps and approved vehicles) including shipping containers, display cabinets, air conditioners and refrigerators.

d. Others

- (1) Costs associated with conducting the ongoing activities of the Sub Branch e.g.
 - Administration, office costs and general outgoings e.g. phone, rent, rates, electricity.
 - Wages.
 - Training courses unrelated to welfare type activities e.g. museum training, first aid training courses (other than for Sub Branch operational requirements) not specifically related to welfare.
- (2) Costs of speakers, musicians, and decorations at entertainment events.
- (3) Fundraising related expenses including speakers, musicians, decorations, meals, and prizes.
- (4) Commitment to recurring expenditure.
- (5) Social occasions and events which are not welfare or commemoration related e.g.
 - Sub Branch or District meetings or dinners.
 - Marketing or promotional activities.
- (6) Sporting participation and equipment unless representing a significant veteran event.
- (7) Costs to attend a reunion or other commemorative activity that is not the best use of the Fund, considering the greater good e.g. attending an overseas reunion.

The above lists are not exhaustive, and if more information or interpretation is required, please contact the District office in the first instance.