



CIRCULAR

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**THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE
OF AUSTRALIA
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH)**

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CIRCULAR NO: 37/07

FILE NO: CP:JS 1923/13/E

DATE: 6th July, 2007

TO: ALL HONORARY SECRETARIES AND
SECRETARIES OF RSL SUB-BRANCHES
DISTRICT COUNCILS AND STATE COUNCILLORS

OPERATION CARE FOR DEFENCE MEMBERS AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Operation Care Ltd was launched in Canberra on 21 September, 2006 and is overseen by a Board of three Directors – two from the RSL & Services Clubs Association (NSW) and the RSL National Secretary. The Board acts on recommendations from a panel with members from the respective DG-PERS of each Service and the office of the respective Service Chiefs.

The project receives the majority of its funding from member clubs of the RSL & Services Clubs Association and funding is claimable as CDSE Category 1 expenditure for Defence Force recipients based in NSW. Additional funding is provided by State Branch, RSL sub-Branched, corporate sponsorship, direct donation and in-kind support from corporations and individuals supportive of our Defence community.

In essence, the program demonstrates support for the serving personnel of the Australian Defence Force and the sacrifice that they and their families have endured for the nation's benefit. It also reinforces the importance of the relationship between the RSL and Services Clubs, the Australian Defence Force and the RSL community. The program has the full support of the Chief of Army and has been endorsed by the Chief of the Defence Force.

Operation Care provides up to one week's rest and recuperation at various sites across the country for selected Defence Force personnel and their immediate family, where the Defence member has been repatriated to Australia as a consequence of wounds received in combat operations. The aim of Operation Care is to assist these Defence members and their immediate family to recover from the physical and

mental scars incurred during combat, so that they can enjoy some quality time together in a relaxing and stress free environment, prior to them recommitting themselves to their core duties. This arrangement produces a clear mutual benefit. Operation car has already assisted around eight personnel and their families.

RSL sub-Branches are encouraged to consider OPERATION CARE as a direct demonstration of the high regard that we hold our current serving members of the Australian Defence Force. Many members may remember a similar program not organised by the RSL during the Vietnam War. It is only right and proper that we should be actively involved in such a project. State Branch has donated a significant sum to this project through the proceeds of the ANZAC Day "Support our Troops" badge.

RSL Sub-Branches wishing to donate to this very worthwhile cause should send their contributions to NSW State Branch for collation and transmission to National. It should be clearly indicated that the donations are for OPERATION CARE.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS PERRIN
STATE SECRETARY