

# Support for Younger Veterans in Residential Care

## Who we are:

A number of Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) in Victoria have formalised an agreement to work together to support younger veterans living in, or needing to be admitted to, residential care.

This initiative recognises that, although the numbers are not large, in certain situations some younger veterans (those 65 years of age and under) with special needs, require a level of care that cannot be provided in the community. Currently in Victoria, residential aged care facilities (nursing homes and hostels) and supported residential services may be the only choice of accommodation for these veterans where 24-hour care can be provided.

The primary aims of the group of ESOs are to support the younger veteran and his / her family through the process accessing care services, and to ensure that care providers understand the special care needs of younger veterans and their families.

Participating members of the Younger Veterans in Residential Care – ESO Support Program are:

- Regular Defence Force Welfare Association (Victorian Branch)
- Carry On Victoria
- Vietnam Veterans' Federation (Victorian Branch)
- Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (Victorian Branch)
- Partners of Veterans' Association (Victorian Branch)
- Legacy Melbourne
- Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Veterans' Association Inc. (Victorian Branch)
- Returned and Services League of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc.

## How we can help:

- Provide information about services available in residential and community care.
- Provide information regarding access to facilities that may have a special interest in caring for younger people, particularly those who are members of the ex service community.
- Arrange contact and assistance from local / preferred ex-service organisations.
- Liaise with care providers to ensure that management and staff understand the unique needs of younger veterans and the support available within the ex-service community.
- Advocate on behalf of younger veterans in residential care, for example, regarding government policy.

Support is available for all members of the ex-service community and their dependants, including those who may not receive a DVA entitlement.

Initial contact for referrals to the Younger Veterans in Residential Care – ESO Support Program is via staff of the RSL Aged and Health Support program, which acts as the central contact for the program, phone 03 9655 5548. Brochures and other information are available via any of the ESOs listed above.



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