

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VETERANS ARTS MUSEUM



Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee 4
March 2019 Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

6 March 2019

Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019

The provisions of this Bill seek to put veterans and families in a beneficial position for their 'entitlements' administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also introduces a system of recognition for veterans through lapel pins and discount cards at a cost of \$11.1m. The *Australian National Veterans Arts Museum Ltd* (ANVAM) makes this submission to the *Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee* to draw attention to a further valuable, tangible and cost-effective means of recognizing veterans and families.

ANVAM offers the means of recognising veterans and families via creative self-expression through the arts. ANVAM's approach is shaped by worlds' best practice including the *National Arts and Health Framework 2014*. ANVAM brought this approach, in part, to the Australian Parliament between November 2018 and February 2019 with the first exhibition of Veterans Art to be staged in the Australian Parliament, titled **From War**.

ANVAM's proposal is best enabled through a permanent site dedicated to facilitating and promoting the self-expression of members of the veteran community (current and ex-serving veterans and families). The site is the Commonwealth property at 310 St Kilda Rd, Southbank, Victoria, which is the former *Repatriation Commission Outpatient Clinic* built in 1937 for veterans' health and wellbeing. In this unused Defence property is an opportunity to transform the site into a cultural institution that greatly expands the intent of the Bill, and would fundamentally transform how we see and recognise veterans.

Implementation will be achieved via a further clause in Part 2 of the Bill that appoints the *Australian National Veterans Arts Museum* as Trustee with provisions to be determined by the Minister as specified in a Trust Deed. Costs may be born by ANVAM where Government determines it is unable to fund any or all of the project.

Enabling this form of recognition would be a tangible expression of **Part 2 Section 8** of the Bill that notes the Commonwealth's commitment to "working cooperatively with the veterans, families and the ex-service community".

Yours respectfully,

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