



# Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC



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### **The Hon Scott Morrison MP**

**Prime Minister**

### **The Hon Darren Chester MP**

**Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

**Minister for Defence Personnel**

**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC**

Thursday, 1 November 2018

## Joint media release — Telling the stories of our service men and women

Our government is backing plans for the Australian War Memorial that will honour Australians who have served in our armed forces, and those men and women who serve today.

Our \$498 million investment in the Australian War Memorial's redevelopment will help them tell new stories in new ways.

It means the Australian War Memorial will be able to display more of their collection and proudly tell the stories from recent years in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

We want to recognise the service of our Australian Defence Force members and safeguard a place for history to present and communicate those stories not yet written.

The redevelopment will increase visitor areas by 83 per cent or around 10,000 square metres to expand the exhibition and public program space which is currently at capacity. The Australian War Memorial will be able to better tell the stories of current and recent conflicts, operations, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions.

It will include a new temporary exhibition space, improved visitor orientation, wayfinding and amenities, areas for respite and reflection, new education facilities, and a theatre and functions space.

Our ex-serving organisations which play a vital role in supporting our veterans and their families will also be recognised along with the proud communities throughout Australia whose loved ones never returned.

This funding builds on our new Australian Veterans' Covenant, Veterans' Card and lapel pin, as well as the \$1.4 billion we're investing for fairer indexation of defence force pensions, free mental health care for all veterans and our veterans to work program.

Whether it's respecting and recognising our veterans and their families, record investment in defence force capability or building a place where we can proudly tell their stories for generations to come, our government is committed to putting our service men and women and veterans first.

*Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546) or visit [www.OpenArms.gov.au](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au)*