



**The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.**

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**Patron: Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove**

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**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' RECOGNITION (PUTTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FIRST) BILL  
2019.**

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill, Putting Veterans and their Families First. We refer only to the parts of the Bill which pertain to Families/Partners.

Our Association is a member of the Australian Defence Services Organisation (ADSO) who instigated the planning of the Military Covenant. We support wholeheartedly this Covenant.

Part 2 – Recognition of veterans and their families.

5. General Recognition.

(2) The Commonwealth acknowledges the demands placed on, and the sacrifices made by the families of veterans.

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc appreciates this acknowledgement.

Part 3 – Issue of pins, cards or other artefacts.

9. Issue of pins, cards or other artefacts.

(2) The Commonwealth may issue pins, cards or other artefacts to family members of veterans in recognition of:

- (a) the military service of veterans; or
- (b) the demands placed on, and the sacrifices made by, the families of veterans.

We believe that the issue of a card which may or may not, depending on the benevolence of the proprietor, offer a discount, be a benefit to some veterans and their families particularly those in areas where there may be a larger population of ADF members and/or veterans.

The issue of a pin is to us a trivialisation of the role played by the Partner and Families in the lifetime commitment to the health and wellbeing of the veteran. It is proven that this commitment to the veteran is detrimental to the health, wellbeing and lifestyle of the Partner and Family. It is some form of recognition but not one which we wholeheartedly appreciate.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity.

HEATHER EVANS.  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.