

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 9:06 PM
To: Committee, Public Works (REPS) <pwc@aph.gov.au>
Subject: reallocate \$500 million to suicidal returned service personnel

Dear Public Works Committee

Re: allocation of \$500 million to expand the Australian War Memorial (AWM) is inappropriate at this time

Please spend the \$500 million on something other than making the Australian War Memorial larger. It is already big enough. It is just bricks and concrete and we haven't been able to enter it for months because of COVID19.

For instance the money could be spent on preventing all deaths by suicide of returned defence personnel. Until we address that issue and stop all such suicides, we will not have done our duty. That must be our first and foremost priority. Every suicide affects tens of dozens of associated people. It is shameful and unforgiveable that people who have served feel so fazed by their overseas or local service that all they want to do is to take their own lives.

Their mental health can't wait. How many more deaths of those who have served do we have to witness at their own hand? We have to fix it now. That is much more important and necessary than expanding the physical setup of the Australian War Memorial at this time. I know that you will agree with me.

With many thanks,

Karen Dahl

[REDACTED]