

**Briefing Points for Discussions on Aged Care Issues
with Mr John Cobb MP at Broken Hill 24 February 2004**

24/2/04
B. Forbes
(Comm. Sec)

- Legacy is a uniquely Australian benevolent organisation dedicated to the care of the dependants of deceased veterans who died on active service or subsequently, including the dependants of today's service personnel killed while on hazardous service or while training for war.
- Throughout Australia there are presently some 133,000 widows, and 700 dependant children, and 1,100 disabled dependants registered with Legacy. Only about 60% of these widows are in receipt of the War Widows Pension (i.e. husband's death accepted as being due to war service). With the exception of a relatively small number still in the work force and a small number of self-funded retirees, the remaining 40% rely on the aged pension.
- Personal Legacy support to these widows and children is provided by some 7,000 volunteers (known as Legatees) who are largely ex-service themselves. Legacy funding is not government based and we rely on fundraising by our volunteers and the generosity of the public to provide the necessary funds for this work to continue.
- The majority of our widows are elderly and this results in an ongoing focus on aged care and health issues. In SA & Broken Hill there are presently some 12,000 widows registered with some 30% living in country areas. On present planning the Legacy task will continue until at least the late 2020s.

Legacy in Broken Hill

- In Broken Hill there are presently some 293 widows with 240 of these aged 75 years or above (Of this total only six are widows of post WWII veterans, e.g. Korea & Vietnam, but interestingly it includes four who were married to WWI veterans). Of the total, 179 widows are in receipt of the War Widows Pension. At present there are no dependant children or disabled dependants registered.
- As WWII veterans pass-on we expect the total number of widows to increase slightly over the next few years and then to gradually decline. The number of widows of veterans from post-WWII conflicts will however increase and by 2025 we may have as many as 80 mostly elderly widows registered in Broken Hill. We can also expect to have a few dependant children and disabled dependants registered.
- Some 60 widows are members of the Broken Hill Legacy Widows Club which is a social group run by the widows but coming under the auspices of Legacy (Australia-wide there are 430 such Widows Clubs). It meets regularly providing important mutual support and comradeship for often lonely widows.
- In Broken Hill there are 31 active volunteers (Legatees) plus five on the Reserve but who also assist to varying degrees.

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