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IN 1916

# THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

ABN 63 008 488 097

From: Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)  
National President

Submission No. 22

C2-5-1/hmm  
9 September 2011

NP: 238/11

Dr Bill Pender  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on National Capital and External Territories  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament house  
Canberra ACT 2600

*Dear Dr. Pender,*

## **New Inquiry – Administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928**

Thank you for your invitation of 19 August 2011 giving us the opportunity to submit a response to the above-mentioned Inquiry.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) believes that the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928 (the Ordinance), through the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC), to be an important aspect of assisting the nation to remember its history and develop a sense of national pride.

The administration of the Ordinance is directly relevant to the Objects of the RSL. Since its founding in 1916 the League has supported the construction and maintenance of war memorials throughout the nation. As a national body and the nation's pre-eminent ex-service organisation the RSL has a particular interest in all National Memorials. We offer the following comment in response to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry:

- The membership of the current Committee does not represent the broader community interest as it consists solely of politicians and bureaucrats;
- There appears to be vacancies for two members to be appointed to the CNMC;
- Consideration should be given for one Committee Member from the Australian Defence Force; and
- In view of the nationwide spread of serving and former serving personnel in each of the capital cities and towns in regional Australia, consideration should be given for one Committee Member from the ex-service community.

LEST WE FORGET

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The process of decision making by the CNMC should follow normal committee processes. Issues should be presented in writing to Members in sufficient time to allow them to research / consult / prepare for debate at committee meetings. Decisions should be taken on the basis of majority opinions with the Chair holding a casting vote when views are evenly divided.

The CNMC should be funded modestly to allow it to seek independent expert advice on issues where Members seek or need such guidance to enable them to arrive at well considered and justifiable decisions.

The processes of the Committee should be as transparent as possible to provide Parliament an effective assurance of a valid concurrent Committee decision. Findings of the CNMC should be laid before both Houses of the Federal Parliament and be disallowable by majority vote of either House.

The public should be invited and encouraged to make submissions to the CNMC and the Committee should seek opinions from the National Capital Authority (NCA) or Department of Veterans' Affairs as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Sed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'S'.