



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

\$54,363 BOOST FOR LOCAL VETERANS

The South will receive \$54,363 in funding from the Rudd Government to purchase equipment to better help the local veteran and service communities, Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth said today.

Amanda was advised by the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Hon Alan Griffin, that three separate organisations will receive funding from the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) program.

- **\$25,540** for the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
- **\$18,183** for the Fleurieu Peninsula Veterans Community Association
- **\$10,640** for the Beachvale Sub Section of the Naval Association of Australia Inc.

“The funding will help the above organisation purchase equipment and resources including laptop computers, printers, broadband internet, office chairs and much more,” Amanda said.

“Through the BEST program, ex-service organisations (ESOs) across the country can apply for financial assistance to help fund staff, computers, office equipment and other resources they need to provide quality advice and guidance to the veteran and service communities. Today’s announcement delivers on the Rudd Government’s promise to increase funding for capital equipment. Further BEST funding allocations will be made in coming months.

“Advocates, pension and welfare officers at our local ESOs provide essential support to veterans, war widows, widowers, dependants and current serving members to help them when making claims for pensions and other benefits.”

“I am pleased the Australian Government has been able to support the work of South and the successful organisations.

Amanda said the funding of BEST grants delivered on a Rudd Government election commitment to provide an additional \$5 million across Australia to support the work of ex-service organisations' (ESO) pensions and welfare practitioners and advocates.

“There is also increased assistance for the Training and Information Program (TIP), meaning the Federal Government has increased the total support for veterans groups to \$14.9 million over four years.

“TIP provides training for organisations that receive BEST funding to ensure they have the essential skills to provide quality services to the veteran and service communities,” Amanda said.

Amanda encourages other ESOs to apply for future funding rounds.

Further information on applying for BEST, and other veterans grants, is available from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, phone 133 254 (metro callers) or 1800 555 254 (non-metro callers), or visit www.dva.gov.au.

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Grant Contacts:

National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc

Mr John Plenty
National Secretary
Phone (08) 8322 2406

Fleurieu Peninsula Veterans Community Association

Mr John George
President
(08) 8232 8124

Beachvale Sub Section of the Naval Association of Australia Inc.

Mr Dennis O’Donnell
Treasurer
(08) 8382 5177

Draft speech notes for the Member for **Kingston , Amanda Rishworth MP**

- *Acknowledge distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.*

- I am pleased to be here today to present [organisation name] with \$xxxx in funding from the Australian Government as part of the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) program.
- Through the BEST program, ex-service organisations (ESOs) across the country can apply for financial assistance to help fund staff, computers, internet access, office equipment and other resources they need to provide quality advice and guidance to the veteran and service communities.
- Advocates, pension and welfare officers at local ESOs provide essential support to veterans, war widows, widowers, dependants and current serving members to help them when making claims for pensions and other benefits.
- The BEST program complements the training provided to pension and welfare officers through the Training Information Program (TIP). Together, these two programs ensure qualified staff are available to help members of the veteran and service communities.
- The funding of BEST grants delivers on a Rudd Government election commitment to provide an additional \$5 million across Australia to support the work of ex-service organisations' (ESO) pensions and welfare practitioners and advocates.
- In total, the Australian Government has increased support for ESOs by \$14.9 million over four years.
- Today's announcement relates to the Rudd Government's funding for capital equipment.
- Further BEST funding allocations will be made in coming months
- I encourage more local ESOs to apply for future funding rounds of BEST and TIP grants and to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs to find out if there are other grants programs that they could benefit from.
- This additional funding also includes increased assistance for the Training and Information Program (TIP) which gives veteran representatives the necessary skills to support the veteran and service communities.
- I congratulate [organisation name] for their dedicated support to the veteran and service communities.

ENDS