



NASHO



An Official Journal
of the
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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Patron: [Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial](#)

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2025 1st Trimester Edition

NATIONAL PRESIDENT RON BRANDY'S REPORT:

NSAA National Executive and NSAA National Council Delegates: My ongoing thanks to the members of the National Executive, Vice President Noel Moulder, Secretary Peter Norman, Treasurer Richard Tregear, and Public Officer, John Thorne, and all NSAA National Delegates for your ongoing efforts and leadership in your respective roles. Thank you for supporting me and the association through the work you do on behalf of the Council, our membership, and all National Servicemen.

Issues facing the NSAA

NSAA Membership: While membership in some locations is holding with minimal non-renewals, some branches and Sub-Branches are debilitated and becoming unviable due to a range of well-known circumstances. Latest figures indicate we are approximately 260 memberships below budget for the year 2024, so your efforts to encourage continued membership will be greatly appreciated for 2025 and beyond.

Longevity and capabilities of the NSAA: These elements are key to the life and future of the NSAA entity and are well known. There has been significant debate at NSAA Council, Branch, and Sub-Branch levels on this subject since the decision to work toward a

dignified winding down and eventual closure of the NSAA. At a National Level, the date of 31 Dec 2026 was debated and agreed as a point at which Member Associations (MA) have implemented their plans for operation beyond that date. MA decisions will inform the future of the NSAA National body.

Sustaining a NSAA National Presence and Membership Post 31 December 2026 – Progress Report: As indicated in my proposal to the NSAA National Executive and NSAA National Council delegates last September, we are barely two years away from what I have effectively named our ‘D-Day’, 31 December 2026. The National Council vigorously and diligently debated the proposal in a spirit of dedication, cooperation, and care to ensure the outcome that would give maximum benefit to members in the most practical way.

Ultimately delegates unanimously confirmed their preference for Option 1 below. Options 2 and 3 were discarded on practical grounds.

Option 1 – Reform to a nation-wide individual member organisation with a single national management team. States and Territories, and Branches and Sub-Branchees will consider whether to Incorporate or revert to social entities.

Feedback from the respective NSAA State and Territories with their individual decisions has been requested to be provided to the NSAA National Secretary by 1 February 2025. It is my sincere hope that we will achieve real clarity for the way ahead at the GM of 6th March 2025 and from there commence the detailed work, at all levels, to ensure that we maintain connection and communications with members at all levels into the future beyond 1 January 2027.

Projects: NSAA Archives –Vice President Noel Moulder and I continue to work with the National Library of Australia on the specifics of their requirements to catalogue our NSAA National records. Noel and I plan to meet in Brisbane in March 2025 after the AGM/GM to complete the cull, catalogue records from 1987 to 2024, and box the material for transport to the NLA. We remain grateful to the QLD Branch for their cooperation and good will in providing temporary storage for the records at their Wacol facility.

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THE MILITARY SHOP:

The Military Shop in Canberra is undoubtedly the best place to find personal military apparel, hats and berets, badges, replica medals, memorabilia and all sorts of things navy, army and air force. The Military Shop also makes a good donation to the NSAA each year based on commission of sales of Nasho gear. Keep The Military Shop in mind if you have a need for any of this stuff. You don’t need to go to Canberra, because their catalogue is online. A Google search for “Military Shop” will get you started. Tell ‘em you’re a 1951-1959 or 1965-1972 Nasho. The logo of the Military Shop is displayed in the Nasho newsletter as quid pro quo in return for annual donations received from the Military Shop.

THE NATIONAL PRIDE ROSE:

The National Pride Rose was created exclusively for the National Servicemen’s Association of Australia. It is available for purchase Australia-wide from rose stockists, but it may need to be ordered in for you. Google “National Pride Rose” for more information. Every rose sold generates a donation from Corporate Roses to the NSAA, so make sure you tell them you’re a Nasho when you place your order.

THE FUTURE OF THE NSAA AFTER 26/12/2026:

At the NSAA National Council meeting conducted on 5/9/2024 in Canberra, the delegates considered three options for the future of the NSAA national organisation, for after the target end date of 31/12/2026. This date was given the temporary label of D-Day.

The three options considered by the National Council were:

- Option 1 - Reform as an individual nation-wide member organisation,
- Option 2 - Retain NSAA as currently structured and managed,
- Option 3 - Disband completely: States and Territories revert to social, or State or Territory constituted entities.

Option 1, to 'Reform as an Individual Nation-Wide Member Organisation with a National Management Team' was unanimously endorsed with the request to delegates to canvas support at state and territory level and report the responses to the Secretary by 31 December 2024.

Sustaining a NSAA National Presence – Progress Report

Our ongoing challenge is to now fully work up a sustainable plan to deliver what Option 1 offers, Individual State and Territory based representation and communication to and from NSAA National.

It is fair, reasonable, and important that individual ordinary members have a means to channel information and queries to the National body without the need for formal committee level management, if that is the wishes of the individual membership. To achieve this, it is important that inputs to the proposed National newsletters be filtered through local focal points i.e. a member or small group of members willing to act voluntarily as a conduit between member groups and the National body.

Equally, we need to determine what level of higher level of state and territory 'top cover' is desirable to assure members that they have an experienced person able to represent them to either NSAA National, or Government, via the National team.

In this context the National Executive offers the suggestion that, where possible, states and territories retain their current Patron in that role. In doing so members should feel well served by these eminent persons that could act for them/us should it be necessary and be able to jointly provide oversight across the organisation, in the members interests. Our President Ron Brandy will be requesting our National Patron and AWM Director Mr Matt Anderson PSM to be the National oversight group convenor should this proposal be agreed. In that context, Ron will invite Mr Anderson to our March 2025 meeting to allow him to air his thoughts on these matters.

“NASHO” NEWSLETTER - TARGET AUDIENCE EXPLAINED:


“Nasho” is the newsletter for Nashos who were previously members of NSAA states and territories branches which have closed along the way. Two have has closed so far, Northern Territory and New South Wales, with possibly more to follow as age wearies us all.

Many such disenfranchised members may wish to remain with the NSAA, so a special category was set up in late 2023. These members are referred to as “Unattached National Members”.

The Unattached National Members will receive a copy of “Nasho” three or four times per year. Courtesy copies are also sent to states and territories secretaries, and to the Officer Training Unit (Scheyville) Association.

If there is anything published in any edition of “Nasho” which needs clarification, a letter to the editor is appropriate.

This is the third edition of “Nasho”, the newsletter for Nashos who were previously members of NSAA states and territories which have closed along the way. Former Northern Territory members joined in 2023 and New South Wales members joined for 2024. “Nasho” will achieve the best readership if readers make comments and suggestions for subsequent editions.



Pete Norman, NSAA National Secretary, Nasho Editor Pro Tem.



THE ADF IS UNDER-RESOURCED:

Boosting ADF ranks

As international and regional instabilities reach their most fractious levels for 70 years, ensuring Australia has a strong and capable defence force is absolutely critical.

And while there has long been debate about defence spending priorities, whether it be air, land or sea platforms – including nuclear submarines and Joint Strike Fighters – a vital element for the Australian Defence Force – the number of personnel – has fallen woefully short.

Despite significant recruitment campaign budgets, the ADF has struggled to cover people leaving the force, let alone add significantly to full-time strength.

On Monday, the Herald Sun reported the ADF was launching a new phone-based 'ADF Ready App' to help encourage

recruitment, with candidates tracking their fitness as part of a potential enlistment process.

But the more significant change from January 1 is the recruitment door will be opened to eligible British, US and Canadian citizens to apply for ADF roles, following a successful invitation to New Zealanders during 2024.

Almost 400 Kiwis have applied to join under new provisions allowing citizens of 'Five Eyes' alliance nations to sign on to Australia's defence forces if they have lived in Australia for at least one year and meet other criteria.

The ADF has a target to grow from 59,194 current members to 80,000 by 2040.

To get there, much greater effort is needed in promoting ADF careers at secondary and tertiary levels within Australia.

This article appeared in the Australian dailies (News Corporation) on 31/12/2024. It is republished in NASHO magazine on my perception that it is an apolitical editorial opinion from the mass media. If you read this article with interest, you may also be interested in the features on pages 13-16.

ABC EDITED FAKE GUN SHOTS INTO WAR CRIME STORY:

The ABC has been forced to apologise in Senate Estimates after doctoring footage to add in the sound of multiple extra gunshots in a story about Retired Special Force Major Heston Russell.

ABC News Director Justin Stevens released a statement, which was read in Senate Estimates, which admitted to making editing errors in the clips.



Heston Russell

"The ABC sincerely regrets and apologises for the editing errors in the video clips, including to members of the 2nd Commando Regiment," Mr Stevens said in the statement. "The video has been removed."

Journalist Alan Sunderland conducted a review into the program, Line of Fire, and a preliminary report was tabled in parliament.

Mr Russell has alleged the ABC intentionally added in extra gunshots to multiple clips to make the program appear more dramatic.

The doctored footage was made in now discredited media reporting which made allegations of war crimes. "To continuously comment on this simply being an editing error is an absolute farce given the entire premise of the 7:30 report story has been proven false by the full helmet cam footage provided directly to the ABC in April of last year," Mr Russell told SkyNews.com.au. "The editing of gunshots on not one but at least two separate sequences, has proven the additional extent the ABC have been willing to go to, to reinforce their self-generated and proven false narrative."

While the ABC apologised, admitted fault and deleted the video in question, it also attempted to push a line that it had been "cleared" of deliberately misleading audiences. "ABC News cleared of deliberately misleading audiences but issues apology over 2022 Afghan war series," reads the headline on the ABC's news coverage of the error.

However, the exact wording in the review is not as definitive, with Mr Sunderland appearing to suggest there was no conclusive evidence to support the suggestion it was

deliberate. "I have found no evidence to support the conclusion that any of this was done at the direction of the journalists involved or on the initiative of the video editor in order to doctor or deliberately distort the depiction of the events that occurred," the interim review states. "On the contrary, what evidence there is suggests it was not a deliberate editorial decision to include additional gunshot audio in order to mislead or deceive."



Heston Russell

Whether or not the mistake was deliberate, the revelations mean the ABC has conceded audio of five extra gunshots were edited into footage of a story alleging war crimes.

Mr Russell has been contacted for comment.

The ABC in September launched an investigation into how the "error" occurred following revelations the public broadcaster in 2022 published doctored audio of an Australian soldier firing six shots, instead of one, at unarmed civilians in Afghanistan in 2012.

The article associated with the story was removed from the ABC's website and the video content taken down until further notice.

Opposition communications spokesman David Coleman confirmed Coalition senators would be addressing the matter during the Senate hearing on Tuesday.

"Coalition senators will be demanding answers about the Heston Russell case," Mr Coleman told The Australian. "There are serious concerns here which go to the very core of the credibility of ABC reporting."

ON YA BIKE:

Food for thought: The CEO of Euro Exim Bank Ltd, Kaushik Punjani made economists think when he said: "A cyclist is a disaster for the country's economy: he doesn't buy cars and doesn't borrow money to buy them. He doesn't pay for insurance. He doesn't buy fuel. He doesn't pay for maintenance and repairs. He doesn't use paid parking. He doesn't cause major accidents. He doesn't require multi-lane highways. He doesn't become obese."

"Healthy people are neither necessary nor useful to the economy. They don't buy medicine. They don't go to hospitals or doctors. They add nothing to the country's GDP."

"On the contrary, each new McDonald's outlet creates at least 30 jobs, in fact it employs 10 cardiologists, 10 dentists, 10 expert dieticians and nutritionists, in addition, of course, to the people who work in the outlet itself."

PS: Walking is even worse. People who walk don't even buy a bike.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MATT ANDERSON PSM AS AWM DIRECTOR:

Mr. Matthew Anderson PSM has been reappointed as Director of the Australian War Memorial, continuing his work leading one of our nation's most cherished and visited cultural institutions.

The Australian War Memorial embodies the nation's commitment to remember, understand and commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australians.

Mr Anderson has served as the Memorial's Director for the past five years. His reappointment for an additional five years will provide stability and ensure the continued successful operation of the Memorial.

Mr Anderson will also continue to oversee the Memorial's major redevelopment project that's on track for completion in June 2028.

Mr Anderson spent eight years as an Australian Army Officer and then a senior diplomat with postings as Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ambassador to Afghanistan and High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands and Samoa.

I look forward to seeing more of his achievements in the years to come.

THE HON MATT KEOGH MP - MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS - MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL 23 January 2025

Matt Anderson is the National Patron of the NSAA.

NORTHERN TERRITORY PRESS CLIPPINGS:

The following press clippings were published in the Northern Territory News in January.

FAIR GO FOR NASHOS

Today the very first of the surviving 1965/72 national servicemen (Nashos) will turn 80. This includes those who undertook their army service in Australia as well as those who went overseas. Any surviving Nasho who was born on 1/1/1945 will turn 80 today. Many happy returns to them on this milestone birthday. Also, happy 80th birthday to all the other Nashos born in 1945, when their birthdays arrive in 2025. Only 7 per cent of 20-year-olds were balloted in for two years of national service from 1965 to 1972. Surviving Nasho numbers are diminishing. All Nashos have never received an apology from any federal government. Those Nashos who did not go overseas (including me) but still had their lives turned upside-down by the birthday ballot, only got a DVA white card on application. Nasho Fair Go Ltd represents these Nashos. Its website is nashofairgo.com.au. Please check this site for more information. We live in hope that Nasho Fair Go Ltd's efforts on our behalf will be the catalyst in us earning our deserved redemption in the not too distant future. We want as many Nashos as possible to receive the apology, monetary compensation and free medical and dental that we have been denied for almost 60 years.

Peter Turner, Findon

Response re Nashos

We, the undersigned former National Servicemen (Nashos), write in response to the letter from Peter Turner, Findon (NT News, Jan 1).

Let us emphasise from the outset, the organisation known as "Nasho Fair Go" does not represent us, nor does it represent the former national servicemen who joined organisations under the umbrella of our national body, the National Servicemen's Association of Australia. No single association, however, can speak for the silent majority of Nashos. Our Territory ex-serviceman's association is the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Northern Territory) Inc, formed on 17 July 2005 and now facing dissolution in the face of an ageing membership impaired by ill health.

We take issue with the letter's apparent sense of entitlement and requirements for assistance from the Australian government. We, who did not proceed abroad on active service, do not seek the DVA Gold Card, nor hold an expectation that government should issue an apology to us and shower us with monetary blessings.

As for those Nashos who proceeded abroad on active service and now hold the DVA Gold Card, we salute them! We served with pride in

support of those on active service, our membership embracing those who partook in both National Service Schemes, the first in the 1950s and the second in the 1960/70s.

There have been sufficient public pronouncements that Nashos served honourably and well, a legacy best maintained by us acting with dignity.

Our national body achieved the construction and commissioning of the Memorial to Nashos who fell on

active service, at the National War Memorial in Canberra, and the issue of the Anniversary of National Service Medal.

These endeavours realised our goal of securing the rightful place of National Service in the broader history of Australia's defence.

Rather than personal gain, we sought to ensure this chapter of the nation's defence was not forgotten.

On a local level, the Northern Territory government assisted us with a modest grant from the Community Benefits Fund, to produce pavers with the regimental numbers and names of Territory Nasho members, laid at the East Point Military Museum in 2024.

We ask for no more.

Ron Strachan, Trevor Bleakly, Bjorn Christie-Johnston, Mike Lane
National Servicemen's Association of Australia (NT) Incorporated members

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2025:

To continue your membership as a Direct National Member of the NSAA, it is now time for you to pay your annual subscription for 2025. The fee for 2025 remains at the same rate as 2023 and 2024, being \$15. This is inclusive of the \$5 NSAA National Levy and \$10 to offset costs of producing the NASHO newsletter and mailouts to Direct National Members who do not have, or have not advised their email address.

Payment options:

BSB: 633-000 Account: 187 507 447 Please ensure that the amount is \$15.00 and that your surname is included in the transaction, for reconciliation purposes.

If you prefer to pay by cheque or money order, make your \$15.00 payment to "NSAA National Account" and send it to NSAA Membership, P.O Box 6187 Long Jetty NSW 2261. Do not send cash in the mail.

There will be no need to lodge or send accompanying paperwork unless you have changed your address, your phone contacts or your email address. Vicki Blundell nashomembership@gmail.com manages changes to the National database.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT RON BRANDY'S REPORT - CONTINUED:

AWM Sponsored NSAA Commemorations: NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder maintains a watching brief with the AWM Commemorations Staff and has been very successful in assisting the AWM present our September Commemorative Services. Thank you, Noel. We remain ever grateful for the welcome cooperation and dedication of the AWM staff as they coordinate and deliver our Memorial Services.

AWM UPGRADE PROJECT-NSAA DISPLAY: At an appropriate time, and with the input of the National Executive, I will seek some guidance from Matt Anderson on how the National Executive may get involved in the proposed reestablishment of the NSAA display planned for the upgraded AWM Post WW2 area. I think it would be helpful to the AWM for us to offer some realistic suggestions e.g. a publicly accessible, digitally searchable record of our fallen, and the possibility to have public access to our records in the NLA via QR codes affixed to our NSAA memorials throughout Australia. There is a lot more to do for this project.

The Military Shop and Corporate Roses: The Military Shop and Corporate Roses continue to support the NSAA through their annual donations. Please help us by utilising both organizations where possible. I am delighted to confirm that both organisations have been able to forward their respective annual donations derived from sales to the National Treasurer, being \$564.71 and \$425.00 respectively.

It remains for me to again wish all readers a happy and healthy 2025. Accordingly, I ask that this bulletin be shared down the line to as many readers as possible.

With warm regards to all,

Ron Brandy
National President
National Servicemen's Association of Australia



Meilland Roses for Australian gardens:

DEFENDING BRITAIN - A BRITISH RETIRED COLONEL'S OPINION:

Here below is the opinion of Colonel Timothy Thomas Cyril Collins OBE (born 30 April 1960). He is a retired Northern Irish military officer in the British Army. He is best known for his role in the Iraq War in 2003, and his eve-of-battle speech, which President George W. Bush had displayed on the White House's Oval Office. He is chairman (and co-founder) of intelligence-based security services company Horus Global. Collins unsuccessfully stood for the Ulster Unionist Party in the seat of North Down in the 2024 United Kingdom general election. This is what he said:-

Defending Our Nation

The ludicrous and dangerous morass into which obsequious and PC-addled senior officers have led the British Army should be a source of real concern to every citizen of the nation.

In the face of external threats and massive budget constraints, the latest very public direction from the Army is to drop the use of "sir" – or indeed "ma'm" when answering the telephone, for fear of giving some offence to the person at the far end. This comes alongside notices not to use language like "mankind", "chaps" or "gentleman's agreement" from the Joint Equality Diversity and Inclusion unit, nicknamed the "Jedi".

It is merely the most obvious manifestation of a lack of leadership that time and effort are given to such trivia in the face of crisis.

The Armed Forces are at the same time both failing to recruit new members and capping recruitment of Gurkhas, Commonwealth volunteers and the Irish in favour of recruits that "reflect society" (whatever that means). It was the same when I commanded 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

I took command of a battalion 300 men under strength. With the chaotic Army recruiting group frankly getting in the way, we in 1 R Irish started our own recruiting drive – in Ireland – and I led a fully manned battalion to war in 2003. How did I achieve that when the lavishly funded official system pathetically failed? I recruited men for military service and adventure, and not to "reflect society".

I had this discussion at a briefing at the Ministry of Defence. A civil servant outlined to invited guests the failing system they were pursuing and lamented the failed uptake of women and ethnic minorities. (LGBT individuals were not yet a priority at that point).

I asked: "do you want an army that reflects society or one that is effective?" The answer was "Well, both, hopefully." I explained that you can't have both. This led to the question of why the numbers of recruits from the Commonwealth and Ireland were being capped. Once again, she replied we want an army that reflects our society.

Then, with a roll of her eyes, as if addressing a stupid little boy, she explained that things had moved on and now warfare was much more nuanced than when I served. Empathising with the people we were likely to meet overseas would, she explained, lead to much less violence and better understanding. That put me in my place.

During my service we certainly tried to empathise where possible but erred on making the enemy – for that is what they are – reluctant to tangle or better still terrified of us. I would suggest that this lady never ever visits South Armagh. There are sections of the community there who given half a chance and allowed close enough would rip our faces off. That is the reality.

That was also the reality of the drug-addled West Side Boys in Sierra Leone, who took twelve members of my regiment hostage in 2000. The SAS rescue which I was involved with from London realised far too late that empathising with these thugs had in fact made matters much worse and had in fact put the lives of the hostages in more danger. That is the difference between actual experience and daydreaming of a better world.

Daydreaming of a better world is a very dangerous occupation and one that should be confined to specialist hospitals and universities. As a parent of a serving officer, I am very worried that one day some dreamer will send my son into harm's as part of a nuanced force and at serious risk to his life. It is a real concern that the senior military care more about their PC profile than the men and women who dare to serve. I unashamedly made it my priority to preserve the life and limbs of my young men where possible. No one who has had to bury teenagers would ever consider such dangerous nonsense on operations.

Edward Gibbon noted in his Decline and Fall: "The emperors, anxious for their personal safety and the public peace, were reduced to the base expedient of corrupting the discipline which rendered them alike formidable to their sovereign and to the enemy....and the Roman world was overwhelmed by a deluge of Barbarians." The Romans supported armed strength in theory, but did not wish to pay for it or to offer their own children as army recruits.

My fellow Ulsterman Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson (who was murdered by the IRA), once said: "It is better to have no armed forces at all than have forces just big enough

to invite attack but not strong enough to win." I would urge the new defence secretary, to wade in, purge the MoD of the PC dreamers, disband the Jedi and appoint someone to lead. It is the Government's duty to defend our nation.

As editor-pro-tem of this magazine, I have inserted this article for general interest. We are living in times when it is divisive to refer to gender, and use gender pronouns which defy the English language we were taught at school. US President Donald Trump in one of his Executive Orders has told all the American people that they are back to now being one of only two genders. How the rest of the world will react is still developing. Similarly, I am not yet aware of any declarations in the US Military about gender pronouns. The Australian Military has undergone several adjustments in the past thirty years, quite different to what it was like during our National Service eras. Here are some of them:

THE ADF POSITION – AN AI GENERATED OPINION:

Our world is changing – Many of us had no idea what AI, Artificial Intelligence, was until recent times. Now it is a major influence in what we read and create. Here is what AI tells us about genders in the Australian Defence Force:

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) recognizes both male and female genders, with a current focus on increasing female participation in all roles, including combat positions, aiming for a more diverse workforce across all ranks; however, some roles may still have restrictions based on gender depending on specific requirements.

Key points about gender in the ADF:

Female representation: As of recent data, around 20% of ADF members are female, with a goal to increase this percentage further.

Gender-restricted roles: While efforts are made to open up all roles to both genders, some combat roles might still have restrictions on female participation.

Policy focus: The ADF actively promotes gender equality and has set targets for increased female representation across all services.

What are the legal genders in Australia?: As per the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender, "where sex and/or gender information is collected and recorded in a personal record, individuals should be given the option to select M (male), F (female) or X (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified)."

Sexual orientation and gender identity in the Australian military are not considered disqualifying matters in the 21st century, with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) allowing LGBT people to serve openly and access the same entitlements as other personnel. The ban on gay and lesbian personnel was lifted by the Keating government in 1992, with a 2000 study finding no discernible negative impacts on troop morale. In 2009, the First Rudd government introduced equal entitlements to military retirement pensions and superannuation for the domestic partners of LGBTI personnel. Since 2010, transgender personnel may serve openly and may undergo gender transition with ADF support while continuing their military service.

Historical prohibition: Homosexuals were not permitted to join the Australian armed forces until 1992. Gay and lesbian personnel who evaded this ban ran the risk of being dismissed from the military if their sexual orientation was discovered; this tended to be more strictly enforced during peacetime than wartime. Nevertheless, many homosexual personnel served in the military during the world wars, Korean War and Vietnam War, with their comrades often being aware of their orientation and accepting of it.

The Australian military prohibited "unnatural offences" or "conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline" from the time of the Boer War, with the Australian Army introducing a specific anti-homosexuality policy after World War II at the urging of the United States military, who had witnessed homosexual acts between Australian troops in Papua New Guinea. From 1974 to 1992, the Australian military services had consistent policies against LGB personnel, who could be subject to surveillance, interviews, secret searches and discharge from the military.

The ban on homosexuals reflected both social attitudes at the time and British military law, which directly governed discipline in the armed forces until 1985. An Australian Defence Force Discipline Act was enacted in 1985, and the ADF set out its position on homosexuality the next year. This statement maintained the ban on homosexual behaviour among service personnel, on the grounds that it would erode command relationships and morale, raise risks of blackmail, create health problems and endanger minors. However, it did not require that homosexual personnel be automatically dismissed, with their commanding officer having a degree of discretion in the matter. Few homosexual personnel were dismissed during the period this statement was in force.



Meilland Roses for Australian gardens: