

Brief – Funding Request for Veterans Expo

Subject: Request for Funding to Support a Veterans Expo in the ACT

We are writing to request \$40,000 in funding to support the delivery of a Veterans Expo in the ACT. This event has been an important part of community engagement, bringing together veterans, families, and key stakeholders to connect, share resources, and foster well-being. While we understand there is no funding allocated for this financial year, we believe the Expo's proven success and the significant benefits it delivers make a compelling case for your support.

Why the Veterans Expo Matters:

1. **Community Impact:** Feedback from past expos has highlighted the event as invaluable for veterans and their families, providing a one-stop hub for services, employment opportunities, and social connection. A veteran attendee in 2022 described it as “an essential resource for navigating life after service.”
2. **Service Provider Collaboration:** The event enables collaboration among Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs), government departments, and local businesses to better serve our veteran community.
3. **Social Well-being:** It fosters inclusion, reduces isolation, and strengthens community ties for veterans and their families, which is crucial for their mental health and transition to civilian life.
4. **Public Engagement:** The Expo attracts a diverse audience, raising awareness of the contributions and needs of our veterans while reinforcing ACT’s commitment to supporting their welfare.

Recommendation for ESO-led Funding Allocation:

We propose that the funding be directed, via a limited tender, to an Ex-Service Organisation to manage and deliver the Expo. ESOs possess a deep understanding of veterans’ needs, established networks, and a track record of successfully engaging the community. This approach ensures targeted outcomes, aligns with veterans' priorities, and maximises the impact of public funding.

Conclusion:

The Veterans Expo has demonstrated its value in past and continues to address critical gaps in service delivery and social connection for the veteran community. With your support, we can continue this initiative in the current financial year, bringing tangible benefits to those who have served our country and their families.

We trust that you will give this request serious consideration and look forward to discussing how we can partner to make this important event a reality.

Yours sincerely,
Nicole Longley

Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council