



30 August 2019

Dear RSL Members,

By any measure, today is an important milestone in the recent history of RSL NSW, as we share with you the constitution we believe is ready to take us into the future.

As I hope you will have seen, our journey to today started immediately after last year's congress. The strategy of learning from the past and facilitating an open, comprehensive process of consultation and feedback has delivered a constitution of which we can all be proud.

While I have the honour of presenting this constitution, which we will be taking to a vote at congress at the end of October, in reality this is the direct result of member feedback. It is your constitution.

Throughout this process, we have welcomed representatives from your District Councils to ANZAC House on many occasions. And equally we have spent time across the state discussing the constitution and the future of RSL NSW with many of you in person. Each and every conversation has contributed to today.

It is your constitution, and we have worked hard to balance compliance with the RSL NSW Act 2018 and ACNC legislation, with ensuring members do not lose their say in how our organisation is run. It is a living document, created in the knowledge that it will continue to grow and change in the future. But we believe it is the right document to now move us forward.

As I have met with many of you across the state in recent months as your Acting President, I have also enjoyed getting more immersed in the workings of ANZAC House. I have met and worked alongside a truly dedicated team of professionals working to evolve RSL NSW and support you, the members. This is not just apparent in the development of the constitution, but more broadly across all areas of our organisation.

I thank each and every member for their feedback, honesty and hopefully your support come congress. I also thank those who have worked to draft the constitution and standard operating procedures such that we are able to share them with you today.

The role that RSL NSW can and must play in the lives of veterans and their families is just as relevant today as it was a hundred years ago. But as with all things, the way this should be done has evolved, and we need to evolve with it.

RSL sub-Branches are pillars of communities across the state, and rightly so. We cannot lose sight of the need to get this framework right, so that you can continue the great work being done on a daily basis on the ground in your communities.

I also hope that the spirit of this year-long process, and resulting constitution, ushers in a new era of open communication and collaboration between members, sub-Branches, District Councils and ANZAC House.

We have important work to do. We have a duty and obligation to ensure the legacy of those who served before us is preserved and not forgotten. This is our opportunity not only to survive but to grow to meet the demands of the future.

I hope we can all come together at congress to embrace this constitution and move our great organisation forward.

I look forward to seeing you all in Albury.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray James
Acting President