



# Presentation to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## Veterans Portfolio

The Premier of Victoria,  
The Hon Steve Bracks MP  
Thursday 3 May 2007

# Achievements 2006-07

- Victorian Spirit of ANZAC Schools Competition, including overseas study tour
- Restoring Community War Memorials Grants Program
- Provided \$50,000 to support ANZAC Day activities
- Supported the Shrine of Remembrance including ongoing support for the major redevelopment known as the “Galleries of Remembrance” project.
- Supported veterans commemorative events including the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on Vietnam Veterans Day
- Established the new Victorian Veterans Council and Veterans Fund
- Establishment and ongoing coordination of the Veterans Heritage Working Group to protect and display Victoria’s veterans related heritage.

# Key Priorities for 2007-08

## **Commemoration and Education activities**

- \$2 million over four years to support the continued development of the veterans commemorative and educative agenda
- Delivery of commemorative and education related initiatives including:
  - Restoration of the Australian Commando Memorial at Tidal River;
  - 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle for Australia and annual remembrance event for indigenous soldiers
- Extend the “Restoring Community War Memorials Grants Program” for a further four years

## **Victorian Veterans Council**

- Provide ongoing secretariat support to the Veterans Council including the administration and distribution of the Veterans Fund and ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund
- Support the Veterans Council in its role as a source of strategic advice to the Government

## **Victorian Spirit of ANZAC Prize**

- Ongoing management and promotion of the 2007 Schools Competition and the 2008 Study Tour

## **Shrine of Remembrance**

- Provision of ongoing operational funding to the Shrine of Remembrance
- Support the planning of the proposed Galleries of Remembrance redevelopment
- Provision of \$200,000 capital funding over three years to upgrade the public address system

## **New budget measures in other portfolios**

- New mental health facility for veterans within the re-developed Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in addition to the veterans rehabilitation centre, including the Kokoda gymnasium and hydrotherapy pool, funded in the 2006-07 budget