

Presentation to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Veterans' Affairs Portfolio

**The Premier of Victoria
The Hon John Brumby MP
Monday 12 May 2008**

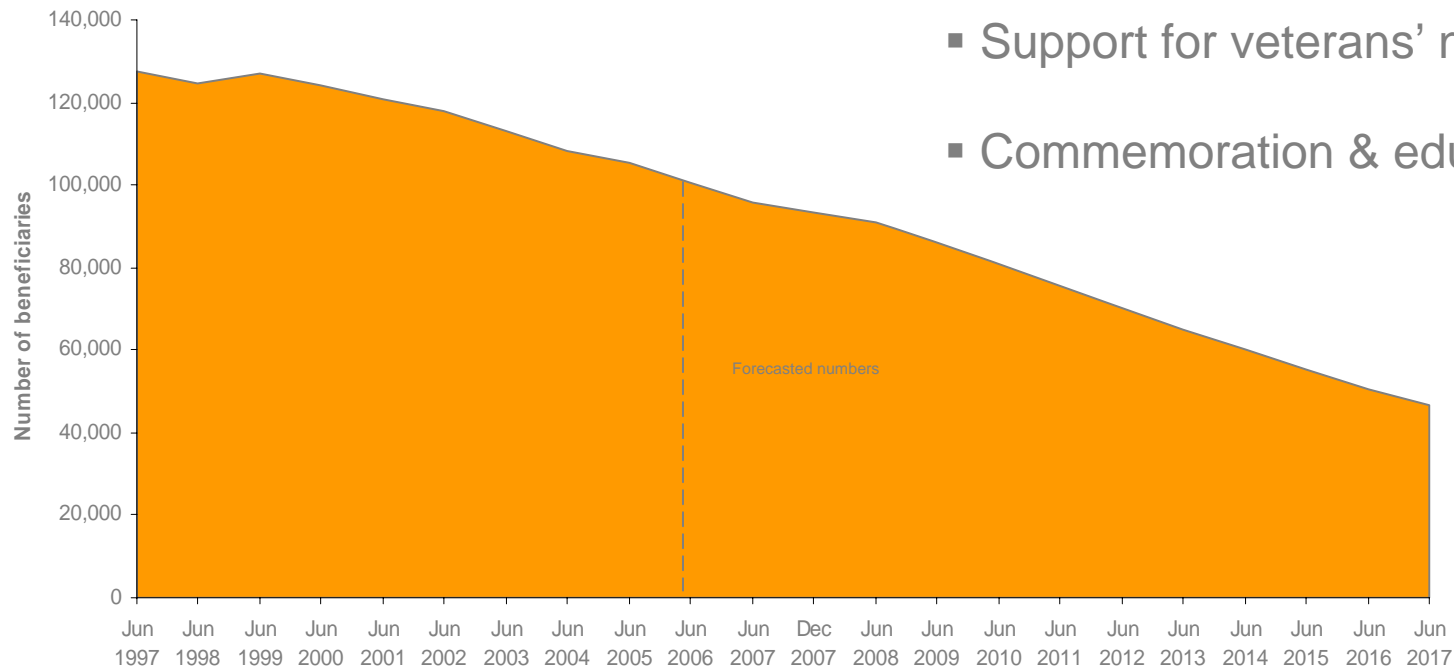




The challenges

- Significant demographic change
- Organisational sustainability
- Support for veterans' needs
- Commemoration & education

Victorian veteran projected numbers





Achievements 2007-08

Policy Development

- Commissioned the Victorian Veterans Council to study on the Victorian Veterans Sector.
- Commenced a survey of Victoria's veteran-related heritage items & associated issues.

Veteran Welfare

- Continued work at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital to build a hydrotherapy pool and Kokoda Gymnasium to service veterans and the broader community.

Commemoration & Education

- Completed the *Spirit of ANZAC Prize 2007 Schools Competition* & 2008 Study Tour.
- Supported the Victorian Veterans Council in implementing the distribution of the *Victorian Veterans Fund & ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund*.
- Provided ongoing support to the Shrine of Remembrance.
- Expanded the *Restoring Community War Memorials Grants Program* with \$1 million available over four years from 2007-08.
- Furthered the veteran commemoration and education agenda, including supporting activities such as the redevelopment of the Australian Commando Memorial at Tidal River.





Key priorities for 2008-09

Policy Focus

- Continuing to develop a Victorian Veterans' Heritage Strategy.
- Responding to recommendations from the Victorian Veterans Council's Victorian Veterans Sector Study.
- Encouraging early planning for the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

New Budget Measures

- Preserving veterans' heritage by digitising military unit histories, working with ACMI to develop a series of oral histories, and establishing a online Victorian veterans' museum.
- Additional funding support for the Shrine of \$380,000 for 2008-09.
- \$15.5 million for works at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, including \$14.5 million for the Centre for Trauma-Related Mental Health to support veteran and non-veteran mental health and wellbeing needs.

Continuing Activity

- Conducting the *Spirit of ANZAC Prize* 2008 Schools Competition and 2009 Study Tour and the *Restoring Community War Memorials Grants Program*.
- Publishing the traveller's guidebook to Victoria's war-time heritage.