



RSL
Tasmania



18 November 2022

Dear Minister/Senator,

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has recently released the fifth annual update on suicide among serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). A full copy of the report can be accessed via:

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/veterans/serving-and-ex-serving-adf-suicide-monitoring-2022/contents/summary>

Key among this data is the shockingly high suicide rate amongst Veterans, with female Veterans having a rate of suicide over twice that of the Australian Female population, and male veterans 27% higher. Whilst exact figures may vary slightly from previously published data the fact remains that more needs to be done in this space, as well as assisting the whole Veteran community.

Current permanent and reserve males are about half as likely to die by suicide as Australian males, and men who leave the ADF for involuntary medical reasons are three times as likely to die by suicide than those who leave voluntarily, further compounding the issue and highlighting the need for adequate post service support services.

Veterans sit in all our communities, what is not shown in the report is the impact this outargues static shows, if one person commits suicide it can affect over 130 other members of the community, these communities are all of ours, not just the Military Community.

Veterans live in all our communities; I am sure we all reflect on that at Remembrance Day last week, I know I did.

We must do more.

John Hardy
Chief Executive Officer
RSL Tasmania
John.hardy@rsltas.org.au