



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs



## Being Prepared: Official Commemoration

The nature of your war service may mean you are entitled to have your service commemorated at the site of internment or on a plaque in a Garden of Remembrance. This entitlement is official commemoration. It is provided by the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) within the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

OAWG appreciates that planning for end of life is not an easy process. But the more thought we can give to necessary arrangements, the easier we will make it for our loved ones.

To assist you and your family, the following information may be helpful.

### 1. CONNECT OR RECONNECT WITH DVA

- If you are not sure if you are entitled to official commemoration, if your service related condition has changed or if you have a new condition, approach DVA for advice as a claim or re-assessment may be beneficial – not just as it may relate to official commemoration, but because you or your family may have additional entitlements for support.
- Phone or email a member of the OAWG team, to seek further information about official commemoration options.

Telephone: 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Email: [GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au)

Email: [wargraves@dva.gov.au](mailto:wargraves@dva.gov.au)

If you are not entitled to official commemoration, but would like to have your service acknowledged on a private memorial, OAWG can provide a letter of permission to use the relevant service badge. This letter can be included in your personal papers and it can assist your family when making bereavement arrangements.

### 2. DISCUSS PLANS WITH LOVED ONES

- Negotiating loss and bereavement can be an overwhelming time for loved ones who are grieving and managing arrangements for a final farewell. The more your loved ones and executors know, the better.

### 3. HAVE YOUR PAPER WORK ACCESSIBLE AND UP TO DATE

- Upon your death, your family is asked to contact the DVA Bereavement team - Phone 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).
- Where a veteran is eligible for official commemoration, DVA will notify the OAWG and your next of kin will receive an offer for official commemoration.

Open Arms supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel and their families. Contact them by phone 1800 011 046 or visit [www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au)