



# Program – Defence and Veteran Suicide: Prevention through Understanding symposium

## Day 1 – Wednesday 10 March

Registration 7:30am-8:30am

### Morning Session 8:30am-10:30am

- Welcome to Country (10 min)
- Symposium Opening by interim Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, Dr Bernadette Boss CSC (20 min)
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** Christine Morgan, CEO of the National Mental Health Commission and National Suicide Prevention Adviser to the Prime Minister.
  - **TOPIC:** The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan: the importance of family engagement (60 min)
- **SPEAKER:** Gwen Cherne, Commissioner for Veteran Family Advocacy
  - **TOPIC:** Veteran and Family Response (30 min)

### Morning Break 10:30am-11am

### Mid-Morning Session 11am-12pm

- **SPEAKER:** Geoff Evans, CEO Disaster Relief Australia and veteran
  - **TOPIC:** Vulnerability and Risk: a model of intervention on curves (60 min)

### Lunch 12pm-1pm

### Afternoon Session 1pm-4:15pm

- **SPEAKER:** Scientia Professor Richard Bryant, School of Psychology, UNSW
  - **TOPIC:** The complexity of assessing and treating post-concussion syndrome (traumatic brain injury) as against post-traumatic stress disorder (60 min)
- **SPEAKER:** Professor Sharon Lawn, Flinders University
  - **TOPIC:** Veteran Wellbeing and Support (60 min)

- **SPEAKER:** Dr David Caldicott, Emergency Consultant & Senior Clinical Lecturer, College of Health & Medicine, ANU
  - **TOPIC:** Swords into Ploughshares- The Medicalization of Illicit Drugs (60 min)
- Commissioner's day one close (15 min)

## Networking 4:30pm-6:30pm

- Complimentary networking drinks and canapes – Level 15, QT Hotel (limited numbers)

## Day 2 – Thursday 11 March

### Registration 7:30am-8:30am

### Morning Session 8:30am-10:30am

- **SPEAKER:** Coroner Jacqui Hawkins, Coroners Court of Victoria
  - **TOPIC:** Case Study – the Jesse Bird inquest (30 min)
- **SPEAKER:** Dr Kay Danes OAM, alumni of Southern Cross University School of Law & Justice, Researcher & Policy Analyst
  - **TOPIC:** Pleading Positive Reform: An analysis of suicide risk, self-harm and reputational peril impacting serving members of the Australian Defence Force (shared 60 min session)
- **SPEAKER:** Nikki Jamieson, PhD candidate, School of Health, UNE, and veteran mental health advocate
  - **TOPIC:** Moral trauma and veteran mental health (shared 60 min session)

### Morning Break 10:30am-11am

### Mid-Morning Session 11am-12pm

- **SPEAKER:** Professor Sandy McFarlane AO University of Adelaide
  - **TOPIC:** Investigating suicide by ADF members and ex-serving personnel (60 min)

### Lunch 12pm-1pm

### Afternoon Session 1pm-4:15pm

- **SPEAKER:** Madeline Romaniuk, Associate Director of Mental Health Research, Gallipoli Medical Research Institute
  - **TOPIC:** The Impact of Transition out of the ADF on Mental Health (60 min)
- **SPEAKER:** Dr Katelyn Kerr, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Toowong Private Hospital, Trauma Recovery Programs & Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention
  - **TOPIC:** Predictors of Suicide in Veterans (60 min)
- Commissioner's event close (15 min)