

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022–23



## About this report

The Queensland Veterans' Council acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

This Annual Report provides information about the Queensland Veterans' Council's financial and non-financial performance for its initial reporting period of 2022–2023. It has been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

In this Annual Report unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

- "Minister" refers to The Honourable Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- "Director-General" and "Chief Executive" refer to the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet"
- "Department" refers to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The Report records the significant achievements against the Strategic Objectives detailed in the Queensland Veterans' Council's *2022–2026 Strategic Plan*.

This report has been prepared for the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games to submit to Parliament. It has also been prepared to meet the needs of stakeholders, including the Australian and local governments, community groups, staff, and individuals.

Copies of this publication can be obtained at <https://qvc.qld.gov.au/about-us/publications.aspx> or by phoning (07) 3003 9950 or by emailing [secretariat@qvc.qld.gov.au](mailto:secretariat@qvc.qld.gov.au)

## Interpreter Services Statement



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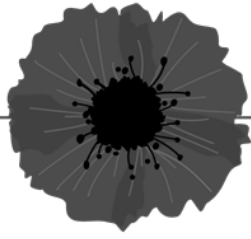
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30 September 2023

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP  
Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games  
1 William St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Premier

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament, the Annual Report 2022-2023 and financial statements for the Queensland Veterans' Council (QVC) (including the Veterans' Reference Group (VRG)).

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*, and
- the detailed requirements set out in the Annual Report requirements for Queensland Government agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements is provided at page 52 of this Annual Report.

Yours sincerely

**Quentin Masson DSM**

Chairperson

Queensland Veterans' Council

# Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2022–23 for the Queensland Veterans' Council (QVC): the first Annual Report of the QVC.

I was appointed as Chairperson of the QVC in November 2022, and I consider it a privilege to be able to undertake this role. I know the impact that a direct voice to government can have for veterans' communities and that makes the work of the QVC so critically important. I also know that all council members are committed to ensuring that the QVC carries out its functions to the benefit of veterans across our State and for all Queenslanders.

Since its commencement in November 2022, the QVC has embarked on a journey that reflects its commitment to honouring the sacrifices of our veterans, preserving their legacy, and ensuring their well-being remains at the forefront of public consciousness and government policy.

The QVC was formed as an independent statutory body with a distinct purpose – to safeguard the sanctity of Anzac Square, oversee the stewardship of the Anzac Day Trust Fund, and provide informed counsel to the Premier on all matters pertaining to our veterans. As we share our endeavours over our first eight months, we also reaffirm our dedication to delivering these core objectives.

Although our obligations in relation to Anzac Square have not yet commenced, we have begun our own education about this important site. The significance of Anzac Square goes far beyond its physical presence – it embodies the collective memory of generations who have served our nation and those who have supported them, reminding us of the selflessness and bravery that define our military history. As trustees of this hallowed ground, we will aim to preserve its heritage, enhance its accessibility, and create an environment that fosters reflection, gratitude, and unity.

The administration of the Anzac Day Trust Fund (the Fund) carries with it a responsibility to uphold the trust and faith placed in us by the community. We aim to ensure that the Fund is judiciously managed, contributing to initiatives that support veterans, their families, and the wider veteran community. We are committed to maintaining transparency and accountability in our financial stewardship, ensuring that the legacy of generosity and respect for veterans endures.

Advising the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games on veterans' matters is a role we hold with great honour. Our insights, informed by engagement with the Veterans Reference Group (VRG), veterans and the wider ex-service organisation

community, have the power to shape policies that acknowledge the unique challenges faced by those who have served. We will continue to advocate for initiatives that address veterans' well-being, mental health, employment opportunities, and seamless transition into civilian life.

This inaugural Annual Report marks a significant milestone in our journey. It underscores our determination to uphold the principles of respect, gratitude, and solidarity that underpin the QVC's existence.

In closing, I invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of service that defines our veterans. Let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, as we strive to serve Queensland in acknowledging the sacrifices of our veterans and actively championing their well-being and continued success.

**Quentin Masson DSM**

**Chairperson**

# About the Queensland Veterans' Council

## Our vision

Our **vision** is that the QVC is trusted, respected and supports a thriving veterans' community.

## Our purpose

Our **purpose** is to provide advice to the Queensland Government on veterans' matters, hold and manage Anzac Square and its Memorial Galleries, and to administer the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

## Our legislation

The *Queensland Veteran's Council Act 2021* sets out our primary functions, powers and governance structure. In addition, the *Anzac Day Act 1995*, contains further responsibilities with respect to the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

## Machinery-of-government changes

There were no machinery-of-government changes affecting the QVC in the reporting period.

## Establishment and functions of the QVC

The QVC is a statutory body which was established in November 2022 under the *Queensland Veteran's Council Act 2021*.

The QVC has the following functions:

- The QVC has the following functions relating to Anzac Square:
  - to act as trustee of Anzac Square reserve under the *Land Act 1994*
  - to manage, maintain, preserve and develop Anzac Square as a memorial to honour the service and sacrifice of Queenslanders and other Australians in war, conflict, peacekeeping and peacemaking
  - to approve and oversee the staging of ceremonial activities and events at Anzac Square to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Queenslanders and other Australians in war, conflict, peacekeeping and peacemaking
  - to approve, manage and promote public programs at Anzac Square to inform, educate and promote understanding among Queenslanders and visitors

- about the history, experiences, service and sacrifice of Queenslanders and other Australians in war, conflict, peacekeeping and peacemaking
- to manage and maintain the cultural heritage significance of Anzac Square.
- The QVC has the following functions relating to the Anzac Day Trust Fund:
  - to administer the Anzac Day Trust Fund under the *Queensland Veterans Council Act 2021* and the *Anzac Day Act 1995*
  - to decide applications for payments out of the Anzac Day Trust Fund, in accordance with the *Anzac Day Act 1995*.
- The QVC has the following other functions under the *Queensland Veterans Council Act 2021*:
  - to monitor matters affecting the veterans' community
  - to investigate and report on any aspect of veterans' matters referred to it by the Minister
  - to consult with the veterans' community when developing advice for the Minister
  - to advise the Minister about veterans' matters and any other matter relevant to the performance of the council's functions.

## **Establishment and functions of the VRG**

The VRG is an advisory group which was established in November 2022 to support the QVC under the *Queensland Veteran's Council Act 2021*.

The VRG's functions are:

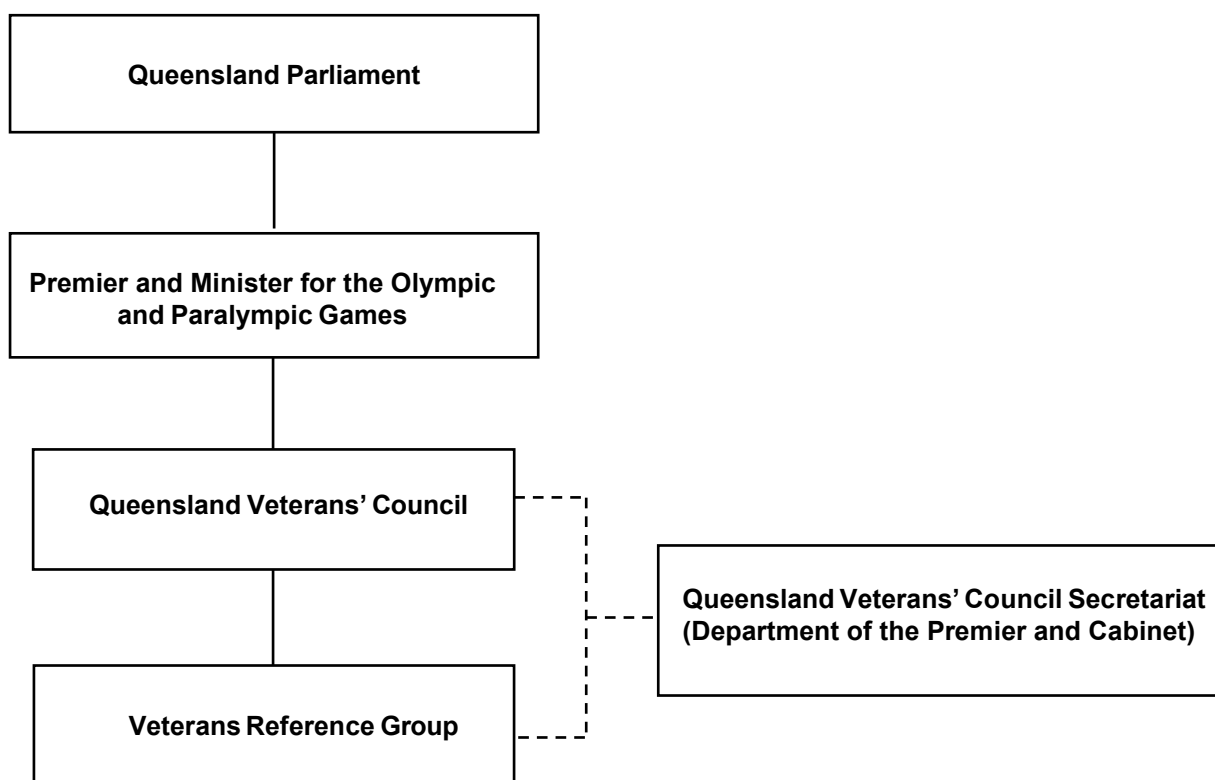
- to advise the QVC on any veterans' matter referred to the VRG
- to help the QVC to identify and consult with the veterans' community, veterans' organisations and other community organisations when preparing advice for the Minister
- to help the council to advise the Minister about veterans' matters.



# Organisational structure

The accountability and reporting structure for the QVC and VRG; and the relationship between the QVC Secretariat (QVCS) (as part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)), the QVC and VRG, the department, and the Premier and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games, are shown at Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Accountability and reporting structure for the QVC, VRG and the QVCS**



## Queensland Veterans' Council Secretariat

Section 39 of the *Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021* provides, in effect, for the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to ensure that the QVC has the administrative support services reasonably required to perform its functions effectively and efficiently.

Staffing for QVCS is provided by DPC to support the QVC and VRG. During the reporting period the QVCS provided the following services:

- Advisory
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Communications
  - Website
  - Ministerial advice
  - VRG liaison and co-ordination
- Anzac Square
  - Due Diligence
  - Procurement
- Grants and Administration
  - Grant Management
  - Corporate governance
  - Stakeholder liaison
  - Records Management
  - Strategic and operational planning
  - Finance
  - Reporting

# Queensland Veterans' Council

## membership

Section 13 of the *Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021* provides for membership of the QVC, as follows:

- the chief executive or an employee of the department nominated by the chief executive
- the chief executive officer of Brisbane City Council or a council employee nominated by the chief executive officer
- six other members (each an appointed member) appointed by the Governor in Council.
- The appointed members must include:
  - two persons nominated by a veterans' organisation under section 14 of the Act
  - four persons nominated by the Minister.
- At least four of the appointed members must be veterans or members of the veterans' community.

### Member profiles

#### Quentin Masson DSM: Chairperson

Quentin is an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran and former SAS squadron commander. Quentin has strong credentials in executive leadership and commercial roles driving exponential growth, operations and management, integrated supply chain solutions, business development, portfolio and program management, capital infrastructure delivery, health, management consulting, defence, governance and compliance, security, risk, data centres, cyber threat, aviation, and state and federal government sectors. Quentin is recognised globally by domestic and overseas enterprise customers for outstanding successes in strategic and operational leadership roles driving exponential growth, organisational change across large-scale complex companies and programs.

### **Lorraine Hatton OAM**

Lorraine Hatton OAM is a Quandamooka Woman and Elder from the Ngughi (Moreton Island)/Nunukul tribes (North Stradbroke Island). Lorraine embarked on a highly successful military career which spanned over 21 years with the Australian Army. She has served on peacekeeping, humanitarian, peace-monitoring and war operations, in various theatres and campaigns and she has been identified by the Australian War Memorial as the first Aboriginal female to be promoted to Warrant Officer in the Australian Army's history. Lorraine retired from the Australian Army in 2007. Lorraine was appointed as the Indigenous Elder of the Australian Army in May 2020 and reports directly to the Chief of Army on a broad range of Indigenous issues. Lorraine currently holds positions on many boards and forums including: Australian Army Indigenous Cultural Advisory Board, University of Southern Queensland, Indigenous Advisory Group for the Australian War Memorial, Corporate Protection, Queensland Legacy Cabinet, various RSLs, Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Committee Queensland.

### **Miriam Dwyer**

Miriam Dwyer is the Chief Executive Officer of the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (a not-for-profit research facility dedicated to addressing the burden of disease in the veteran community). Miriam is committed to improving the lives of current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force, further reinforced by her directorial contribution to Mates4Mates from 2013 to 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Commando Welfare Trust commencing in 2019 and the Board of Cor Infinitus commencing in 2020. Miriam has post-graduate degrees in science and education and completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Board Directors Course in 2019.

## **Christopher Hamilton**

Chris served in the Australian Army and the Army Reserve for over 40 years. He held senior leadership positions on operations and in project management, training and infrastructure development in Canberra, Brisbane, Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific. He acted in a representative capacity as the Colonel Commandant of the North West Mobile Force in Darwin and the Pilbara Regiment in Karratha and remains an Honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General. Chris is currently the Chief Executive Officer of RESQ Plus Pty Ltd in Longreach. Chris has served as President and Chair of the Legacy Club of Brisbane Ltd, Director of Legacy Australia and a member of the former Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council. He currently serves on the South-West Queensland Hospital and Health Board, the Boards of Returned and Services League (RSL) Australia, RSL Queensland and Jobs Australia Ltd. Chris has an Masters of Business Administration (MBA) majoring in Human Resource Management and Marketing, a Bachelor and Diploma of Applied Science, a Diploma in Leadership and Management, an Associate Diploma in Horticulture. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Nicole Hayes**

**Nicole is a nominee of North Queensland Legacy, a veterans' organisation.**

Nicole is the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Queensland Legacy and a member of the Townsville Hospital and Health Board. Over the last six years, Nicole has worked closely with veterans, Australian Defence Force members and community volunteers to provide care to hundreds of veterans' families living across northern Queensland. Nicole has extensive experience in governance, management and stakeholder engagement, having worked in several sectors including education, health, not-for-profit and consultancy. Nicole holds a MBA, a Bachelor of Education and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Robert Skoda**

**Robert is a nominee of RSL Queensland, a veterans' organisation.**

Robert commenced his career as a Ground Defence Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force and has deployed to Afghanistan, the Middle East and Timor Leste. Robert has extensive domestic and international experience in the private sector, with a focus on risk for remote construction projects and operations management of professional services. Since 2016 Robert has demonstrated commitment to the military family through growing and enhancing RSL QLD services. Robert is currently the CEO of RSL Queensland and a Director of the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation.

### **David Chick**

David is an Ex Officio Council member, a nominee of the Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane City Council. David leads and manages the City Planning and Sustainability division at Brisbane City Council, which supports the future planning, design and development of Brisbane, along with the current care and management of ANZAC Square. His divisional portfolio includes - development services, planning, environment, parks and sustainability, economic development, Brisbane 2032 Host City and international relations and multicultural affairs. David has a long career in public service, focusing on public policy and engagement, including the administration and development of community programs and grants. David also serves as a Board Director of the Brisbane Sustainability Agency and City Parklands Services Pty Ltd. David holds a Bachelor of Environmental Design from the University of Tasmania and a Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture from the Queensland University of Technology.

### **Filly Morgan PSM**

Filly is an Ex Officio Council member, a nominee of the Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Filly has more than 25 years' experience in the Queensland public sector. Filly currently leads the Governance and Engagement Division within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet which includes responsibility for the Office for Veterans. She previously oversaw the ANZAC Centenary Commemoration Unit which delivered activities to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Filly is a Clerk of the Executive Council. She is also the Queensland representative on the Council for the Order of Australia and the Australian Bravery Decorations Council and a member of the Disaster Appeals Trust Fund Committee. In 2018, Filly was awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service through a range of coordination and governance roles in Queensland. Filly is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## Remuneration of members of the QVC

Members of the QVC are remunerated in a manner consistent with the government policy titled *Remuneration Procedures for Part-Time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies*.

Queensland Veterans' Council					
Act or instrument	<i>Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021</i>				
Functions	The functions of the QVC are: (a) to manage, maintain, preserve and develop Anzac Square as the State's war memorial (not yet commenced); and (b) to administer the Anzac Day Trust Fund, including by making payments from the Fund (not yet commenced); and (c) to advise the Minister about veterans' matters.				
Achievements	<p>The Queensland Veterans' Council commenced its operations with the proclamation of certain provisions in the <i>Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021</i> on 4 November 2022, which coincided with the appointment of its inaugural members to both the QVC and VRG. As a new statutory body, the activities of the QVC in the 2022-2023 year have been largely focused on finalising and establishing administrative arrangements to support the QVC and establishing appropriate policies and governance mechanism to support the operations of the QVC.</p> <p>On 14 April 2023, a further proclamation was made commencing further provisions of the <i>Queensland Veterans Council Act 2021</i> relating to the Anzac Day Trust fund, and the</p> <p>QVC subsequently commenced the management of the 2023 round of the Anzac Day Grants Program and the final round of the COVID-19 Anzac Day Grants Program under the <i>Anzac Day Act 1995</i>. As of the date of this report the current round is still in progress.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2023 the provisions relating to Anzac Square had not yet commenced.</p>				
Financial reporting	Not exempt from an audit by the Auditor General. Transactions of the entity are accounted for in the financial statements				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance <sup>1</sup>	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received <sup>2</sup>
Chairperson	Quentin Masson DSM	5	\$520	N/A	\$2080
Member	Robert Skoda <sup>3</sup>	5	\$400	N/A	NIL
Member	Nicole Hayes	4	\$400	N/A	\$1200
Member	Loraine Hatton OAM	4	\$400	N/A	\$1400
Member	Miriam Dwyer	5	\$400	N/A	\$1600
Member	Christopher Hamilton	4	\$400	N/A	\$1400
Member	David Chick	5	N/A	N/A	NIL
Member	Filly Morgan	5	N/A	N/A	NIL
No. scheduled meetings/sessions	5 Meetings of the QVC were held during the period November 2022 to June 2023, including the initial induction session held in November 2022.				
Total out of pocket expenses	\$179.41				

Notes:

1. Fees payable to members for meetings vary depending upon the length of each meeting.
2. "Actual fees received" does not include mandatory employer superannuation contributions made by the QVC on behalf of members.
3. Mr. Robert Skoda has advised the Chairperson that he does not wish to be remunerated for his role as a Member of the QVC.

# Veterans Reference Group membership

Section 36 of the *Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021* provides for membership of the VRG, as follows:

- The VRG has the membership decided by the Minister.
- The Minister must ensure the group consists of:
  - the appointed members under section 13(2)(a), being the QVC members nominated by veterans' organisations; and
  - not more than 8 other members of the veterans' community having knowledge of, or skills and experience in, 1 or more of the following—
    - veterans' welfare;
    - veterans' health;
    - military service;
    - veterans' transition from military service;
    - veterans' employment;
    - veterans' aged care;
    - matters that affect veterans' partners, widows and dependants;
    - other matters that affect the wellbeing of the veterans' community.

## Member Profiles

### Robert Skoda

Robert is the co-chairperson of the VRG as a QVC member representing a veterans' organisation. Robert was nominated by RSL Queensland.

### Nicole Hayes

Nicole is the co-chairperson of the VRG as a QVC member representing a veterans' organisation. Nicole was nominated by Legacy Queensland.



### **Kate Bowden**

Kate joined the Australian Army in 1998 and obtained her Electrical Engineering Degree from the Australian Defence Force Academy. Following the completion of her officer training at the Royal Military College in Duntroon, she joined the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps where the majority of her eight years in the military were in maintenance and logistics roles. Kate is the national treasurer for the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) and has a keen interest in policy affecting veterans and the veteran community. She previously served on the Board of Trustees for the Anzac Day Trust. Kate has a strong background in management, engineering, and project roles across corporate, consulting and government sectors. She is currently the Head of Asset Analytics for CS Energy.

### **Anita Brooker**

Anita joined the Australian Regular Army in July 1988 and served in the Australian Army Psychology Corps as a Psychological Examiner and a General Service Officer in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. Anita has been heavily involved in the veteran community in Townsville as a volunteer. She was a founding Director, Company Secretary, and Wellbeing Officer of The Oasis Townsville Limited and a Director and Company Secretary of Defence Holidays North Queensland. Anita was appointed to the Capability Framework Management Group for the Advocacy Training Development Program and a member of the Queensland Government's North and North West Queensland Regional Community Forum. She is currently the Chair of the Management Board of the Townsville Community Information Centre. Anita is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the Institute of Community Directors.

## **Brendan Cox**

Brendan Cox served in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps as a soldier and officer in a variety of regimental appointments including being Commanding Officer of 51 FNQR. Brendan's operational experience includes tours of Bosnia, East Timor and Afghanistan. Brendan has received the US Army Commendation Medal, Chief of Joint Operations Group Commendation, Australian Land Commander's Commendation, the US Meritorious Unit Citation and the Commendation for Distinguished Service. Brendan is a graduate of the United Kingdom's Joint Services Command and Staff College. Brendan holds a Master of Business (UNSW) and a Master of Arts in Defence Studies (Kings College, United Kingdom). Brendan is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Course and has completed a Harvard Business School scholarship studying strategic perspectives in not-for-profit planning. In 2022 Brendan was awarded the prestigious Paul Tys Churchill Fellowship to investigate better models of care to support families with a veteran suffering mental health trauma. In May 2016, Brendan was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Brisbane. Brendan is passionate about establishing collaborative models of care to meet the needs of veterans and their families.

## **Dr Andrew Cronin**

Dr Cronin is a Medical Officer with the Australian Veteran Health Services - based in Springfield and providing DVA Medical Services throughout Queensland and Australia. Dr Cronin served in the Australian Defence Force for over 15 years, first as an Engineering Officer in the RAAF, and then transferring to be a Medical Officer in the Army. In that time, Dr Cronin served with several squadrons and health facilities around Australia. Dr Cronin grew up in a RAAF family and moved every few years, eventually completing high school in Melbourne. Dr Cronin is a current member of the Australian Medical Association (Queensland), the Australian Military Medical Association, the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine, and the Royal Aeronautical Society. He has previously worked for Queensland Health, LifeFlight, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service - Queensland Section in Senior Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent roles. Dr Cronin has been appointed to the DVA GP Advisory Group and the DDVA Human Research and Ethics Committee.

### **Kate Drews**

Kate commenced her career in the Australian Regular Army and is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and Royal Military College Duntroon. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Commerce both from the University of New South Wales. Kate served in the Royal Australian Engineers and completed postings to 21 Construction Squadron, the School of Military Engineering and Defence Estate and Infrastructure Group. She is the President of the Queensland Military Historical Society which is an association dedicated to preserving Queensland's military heritage. Kate is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of SMEC ANZ, a global professional services engineering and design firm. In this role she leads a diverse, talented team of over 2,000 specialists across both countries. With more than 25 years' experience in the property, construction and infrastructure sectors, Kate has held several senior leadership roles and is currently a member of the Healthy Land and Water Risk and Audit Committee, a Director on the Board of SMEC Australia as well as Consult Australia, the peak industry body for design, engineering and advisory firms in Australia.

### **Jenny Gregory OAM**

Jenny is the widow of a veteran who served in the Australian Army in Malaya, Vietnam and Singapore. She grew up in Adelaide where she attended school and later trained at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to become a Registered Nurse. After a number of years working in the aged care sector, Jenny gained tertiary qualifications and holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing Science from the University of Canberra and a Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management from Charles Sturt University. Jenny Gregory is currently the National President of Australian War Widows. She joined Australian War Widows Queensland shortly after her husband's death in 2013 and became State President from 2016–2022. Jenny was awarded an OAM in the King's Birthday Honours List in 2023 for service to veterans and their families.

### **Bill Marklew**

Bill joined the Australian Army at 18 years of age, he was allocated to the Infantry Corp where he served in four Regular Battalions and one Reserve Battalion as well as a short period with Army Recruiting. Bill is now retired after a working career that spanned employment in the private sector, the military and the public sector. His last position was as the Queensland State Secretary of the Community and Public Sector Union, a position he held for 20 years. He has significant experience in working and liaising with Senators and Members of Parliament at both the Federal and State levels, participating in committees' and groups involved with the development of various Bills and pieces of legislation. Bill is a member of a number of professional bodies including the Institute of Managers and Leaders, Queensland Justices Association, and the Institute of Community Directors Australia. Currently he is Secretary of Paws for Hope and Understanding Inc, an ex-service organisation whose aim and objectives are to provide a specifically task-trained service dog for veterans diagnosed with a PTSD and/or traumatic brain injury. Bill was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2020 for services to the Trade Union Movement and to other community groups.

### **Edwin Mi Mi**

Warrant Officer Class Two Edwin James Mi Mi is a proud Wakka Wakka man, born and raised in Gayndah, Queensland. Warrant Officer Mi Mi enlisted in the Australian Regular Army (ARA) on 3 September 1985. After completing recruit training in Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, NSW, he was allocated to Infantry Corp, based at Singleton, NSW and after completing Initial Employment Training (IET) was posted to the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR). Throughout his 24-year service within the ARA, he held a number of regiment and non-regimental postings and has progressed through the ranks from Private to Warrant Officer Class Two within the Infantry Corp. Warrant Officer Mi Mi has deployed to Op Solace, Somalia, 1993 with 1 RAR, East Timor, 1999 with 2 RAR, East Timor, 2003 with the Defence Cooperation Program- East Timor (DCP-EM), Iraq, 2004 with the Australian Army Training Team - Iraq (AATTI 2).

## Remuneration of members of the VRG

Members of the VRG are not remunerated.

Veterans Reference Group					
Act or instrument	Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021				
Functions	The VRG's functions are— (a) to advise the council on any veterans' matter referred to the group; and (b) to help the council to identify and consult with the veterans' community, veterans' organisations and other community organisations when preparing advice for the Minister; and (c) to help the council to advise the Minister about veterans' matters.				
Achievements	One meeting of the VRG was held during the reporting period being an onboarding session induction. Terms of reference for the VRG were received in the reporting period however the focus of the QVC during the period was on the establishment of the QVC, its secretariat and the progressive assumption of its functions.				
Financial reporting	Exempted from audit by the Auditor-General				
Remuneration					
Position	Name	Meetings/sessions attendance	Approved annual, sessional or daily fee	Approved sub-committee fees if applicable	Actual fees received
Co-Chair	Robert Skoda	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Co-Chair	Nicole Hayes	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Kate Bowden	0	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Anita Brooker	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Brendan Cox	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Dr Andrew Cronin	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Kate Drews	0	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Jenny Gregory OAM	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Bill Marklew OAM	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
Member	Edwin Mi Mi	1	Position not remunerated	N/A	
No. scheduled meetings/sessions	One meeting of the VRG was held in November 2022 being an induction session. Terms of Reference for the VRG were received in the reporting period however the focus of the QVC during the period was on the establishment of the QVC, its secretariat, and the progressive assumption of its functions.				
Total out of pocket expenses	\$56.80				

# Operating context

In 2022, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recorded data on Australian Defence Force (ADF) service for the first time, releasing data that provided key insights into the Queensland's veteran population. The release of the 2021 Census data showed that around 28 per cent of Australia's 581,139 veterans, call Queensland home. This data provided a clear indication of the extent of the veteran population in Queensland and where key veteran communities are located. This information will help shape the QVC's approach to its functions.

ABS data showed that 163,112 current serving and ex-serving ADF members lived in Queensland in 2021, with most living in the greater Brisbane area. The data also identified Townsville (15,408), Gold Coast (14,608) and Ipswich (14,326) as the regional areas with the highest population of total (current and ex-serving) veterans in Queensland.

The ongoing Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is also providing key insight into the challenges veterans and their families and communities can face. With Queensland home to a significant proportion of Australia's veteran community, this reinforces the key role that the QVC can play in improving the lives of veterans and their communities and in assisting the government in delivering objectives for Queensland.

## **Opportunities**

In operating within this context, the QVC will work to ensure effective frameworks and resources are in place to deliver our strategic objectives for the benefit of veterans, the community and Queensland. We will focus on realising opportunities through:

- Enhancing the cultural heritage and education opportunities of all Queenslanders through our trusteeship of Anzac Square.
- Exploring additional funding sources and arrangements.
- Providing respected and trusted advice to the government via the Minister.
- Playing a leading role in networks of interstate Veterans' Councils and peer to peer round tables.
- Providing opportunities for stakeholders to interact.

## **Challenges and risks**

Key challenges and risks for the QVC include:

- The successful transition of Anzac Square to the trusteeship of the QVC in the next reporting period.
- Developing a profile as a trusted advisor to government, by the veteran community.
- Ensuring effective frameworks and adequate resources are in place to deliver the QVC's strategic objectives.

# Performance

## Government's objectives for the community

Section 10 of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* (Qld) requires that the Minister prepares and tables in the Legislative Assembly, a statement of the government's broad objectives for the community.

The objectives are long-term and tackle complex problems, which can only be achieved by governments, industry, and the community working together. The QVC plays a key role by engaging with veterans the broader community and with the government, to assist in delivering better social and economic outcomes; protecting, commemorating, and educating about our shared cultural heritage; and providing support to veterans and their families.

Further detail about QVC's role is included throughout this report.

On 21 October 2022, the government introduced a revised set of objectives that reflect its vision for Queensland and outline the plan to build future prosperity and growth across the state. The work of the QVC contributes to the following objectives and sub-objectives:

- **Better services:** Deliver even better services right across Queensland.
  - **Connecting Queensland:** Drive the economic benefits, improve social outcomes and create greater social inclusion through digital technology and services.
- **Great lifestyle:** Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow.
  - **Growing our regions:** Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity.

## Strategic Plan 2022-2026

The QVC's Strategic plan is a public statement about how the QVC will undertake its statutory obligations and contribute to the Government's objectives for the community during the period covered by the plan.

During the reporting period, the QVC developed and approved its Strategic Plan 2022–2026. This plan is consistent with the requirements placed on statutory bodies by the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*, made under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. The *QVC Strategic Plan 2022–2026* is available on the QVC website at <http://qvc.qld.edu.au/about-us/publications.aspx>.



## **Strategic Objectives**

### **Commemoration**

#### **QVC Objective: Anzac Square is Queensland's state War Memorial and Shrine of Remembrance**

Anzac Square is an iconic monument that stands as a testament to the valour, sacrifice, and indomitable spirit of Australians who have laid down their lives in the service of their country during times of peace and conflict. As Queensland's pre-eminent War Memorial and Shrine of Remembrance, Anzac Square not only embodies the collective memory of Queenslanders but also serves as a living connection to our storied military past. The QVC will safeguard this cherished public asset on behalf of the people of Queensland for the present and the generations to come.

In recognition of the significance of Anzac Square as a Queensland cultural institution, the QVC has a resolute focus on maintaining Anzac Square to the highest standards of preservation. The QVC also recognises the need to ensure that Anzac Square continues to evolve to deliver profound, enriching, and meaningful experiences that not only pay homage to the sacrifices made by Australian veterans, but also foster contemporary interactions, bridging the gap between the past and the present.

By engaging with people and communities, Anzac Square can, and will continue to, assume a central role in Queensland's commemorative landscape, aiding in the remembrance and exploration of the Australian experience of conflict and its resonance in contemporary times. From its inception as a shrine to its current status as a living memorial, Anzac Square continues to stand as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedom, and the duty we bear to remember them.

### **Performance indicators**

Anzac Square is a place for reflection, commemoration and a place the broader community will want to visit. Performance is measured by:

- Growth of visitation numbers.
  - This indicator will be measured by:
    - Growth in visitor numbers to Anzac Square's Memorial Galleries.
  - In this reporting period
    - Anzac Square had not transitioned to the QVC in the reporting period and therefore no data is available. In the next reporting period, the QVC will establish baseline data with which to measure performance in the future.

- Successful transition of Anzac Square and Memorial Galleries to the care of QVC.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - Contracts are in place for the management and maintenance of Anzac Square.
    - Contracts are in place for the management and curation of Anzac Square’s Memorial Galleries.
    - Policies, procedures and guidelines are in place for the appropriate management, maintenance and curation of Anzac Square.
  - In this reporting period:
    - The QVC engaged with the Brisbane City Council to gain an understanding of the current state of Anzac Square and its maintenance and operational requirements and commenced preparation for site handover in late 2023.
    - The QVC engaged with equivalent memorials throughout Australia to gain an understanding of the appropriate management and curation of these culturally significant heritage sites.
    - The QVC engaged with the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) to gain an understanding of the current state of exhibitions within the memorial galleries and explore future opportunities to remember, interpret, and comprehend the profound impact of conflict on our society.
    - The QVC engaged with the Office for Veterans in the department to gain an understanding of the significant redevelopment of Anzac Square which took place as part of the Anzac Centenary celebrations and their role in administering arrangements with the SLQ.

## Advisory

**QVC objective: To provide a bridge between the veterans' community and government.**

A key pillar of the QVC's role and strategy is to be a pivotal intersection between the veterans' community and the Queensland Government. The QVC's objective is to serve as a bridge, ensuring that the voices of Queensland's veterans and families are not only heard, but are also influential. At its core, the QVC will be more than a conduit; we aim to be a primary point of contact, a sounding board, and a repository of knowledge and lived experiences of veterans to inform and advise on solutions, to play a fundamental role in informing government decisions, and to ensure that the voice of the veterans' community resonates in every relevant policy discussion.

The QVC, as it matures, will be a trusted advisor to government on veteran's issues, guided by a strategic emphasis on the breadth of representation, insight, and influence that spans the spectrum of veterans' needs and concerns. By fostering a comprehensive understanding of veterans' experiences, we will ensure that our advisory role will not only focus on the immediate, but also on enduring impacts on veterans, their families and their communities.

Central to the QVC's work in this area is the VRG. The VRG serves as a direct link to the veterans' community, a vehicle for consultation, and a means through which the veterans' voices are directly infused into the advisory process. Through the VRG, the QVC gains direct access to the lived experiences, concerns, and insights of all veterans, not merely those with the loudest voices, strengthening its capacity to provide informed advice to the Queensland Government.

### **Performance indicators:**

The QVC is objective, consistent, influential, the first call and a sounding board.

Performance is measured by:

- Capturing knowledge and lived experience to inform and advise on solutions.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - Building awareness of the role of the QVC
    - Establishing, enhancing and validating the role of the VRG
    - Gaining an understanding of veterans and their communities, their concerns and issues
  - In this reporting period:
    - The QVC commenced engaging with veteran communities within Queensland.

- The QVC met with representatives of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to gain an understanding of the current work of the Royal Commission and how this may guide the QVC's advisory role in the future.
- The QVC held the inaugural meeting of the VRG.
- Government actively seeks advice from the QVC on matters concerning veterans.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - Government seeking advice from the QVC and VRG on matters concerning veterans and their families.
  - In this reporting period:
    - The QVC provided advice to the government in relation to matters as requested by the Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs and the Public sector.

## Support

**QVC objective: The QVC is optimally established to administer a range of supports for veterans, including a successful Anzac Day Trust Fund.**

In the pursuit of ensuring support for Queensland's veteran community, the QVC aims to administer a spectrum of support for veterans. Central to this endeavour is the management and growth of the Anzac Day Trust Fund – a cornerstone initiative providing annual grants to organisations that has supported the welfare of veterans and their dependents in Queensland since 1965.

The QVC seeks to fortify the foundations of the fund, ensuring both operational excellence and long-term sustainability, with an overarching vision to work with government to broaden the scope of assistance, augment the resources available, and create a sustainable and thriving fund that catalyses positive change.

2023 heralded a pivotal moment as the QVC assumed stewardship of the Anzac Day Trust Fund. This transition marked a fresh chapter in the Fund's legacy, one that will be characterised by the QVC's commitment to prudent administration, transparent governance, and transformative impact. The QVC is overseeing the administration of two grant programs in the reporting period—the Anzac Day Trust Fund Grant Program and the final round of the Anzac Day Trust Fund COVID-19 Grant Program.

As the inaugural year for the QVC's administration of the Fund, it also serves as an opportunity for refinement and advancement, with the aim of enhancing the application, assessment, and disbursement processes and setting the stage for a more streamlined and effective mechanism in the years to come.

### **Performance indicators:**

The QVC is well established, focussed on sustainability and supports the best outcomes for veterans in Queensland. Performance is measured by:

- Number of veteran organisations supported through the Anzac Day Trust Fund.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - The growth in veteran related organisations that are supported by the Anzac Day Trust Fund.
  - In this reporting period:
    - Assumed responsibility for the administration of the Anzac Day Trust Fund on 14 April 2023.
    - Opened 2023 applications for the Anzac Day Trust Fund Grant Program on 20 April 2023.
    - Opened the 2023 applications for the Anzac Day Trust Fund COVID-19 Grant Program on 20 April 2023.
    - Commenced the assessment process for both of the above grant programs on 12 June 2023.
    - The QVC's decision regarding successful applicants for the 2023 round and payment to those successful applicants will take place in the next reporting period.
- Sustained and growing Anzac Day Trust Fund.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - Resources, policies and procedures are in place to administer and grow the Anzac Day Trust Fund.
  - In this reporting period:
    - The QVC put in place staff and policies to commence the 2023 round of the fund.

## Engagement

**QVC objective: To effectively engage with the veterans' community, government and the broader community.**

The QVC will be a leading voice and conduit for veterans in Queensland by fostering effective engagement with veterans, government entities, and the broader community through leadership, inclusive coordination, and a collaborative spirit. The QVC facilitates connections and enables networks to assist to address veterans' issues in a responsive and inclusive manner to create positive impacts that resonate through Queensland's communities.

Strategic engagement and proactive collaboration via the VRG will ensure that the collective knowledge of those who have served remains at the forefront of decision-making processes.

Recognising the impact that government policies and societal attitudes can have on veterans, the QVC is committed to establishing productive partnerships with government bodies and the broader community. Through strategic co-ordination, inclusive partnerships, and a proactive approach, the QVC aims to contribute to a Queensland where veterans thrive, are understood, and continue to contribute meaningfully.

### **Performance indicators:**

The QVC is seen as a leading voice in the veterans community in Queensland. Performance is measured by:

- Engagement with veterans' sector, government and the broader community.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - QVC and VRG engagement with veterans organisations, government and the broader community.
  - In this reporting period:
    - The QVC engaged directly with veterans and veteran groups who reached out for specific advice and guidance.
    - Met with representatives of similar state statutory bodies in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales to gain insights into their experiences and issues of significance to their veteran communities.
- Knowledge is developed and shared.
  - This indicator is measured by:
    - Gaining an understanding of veterans' issues and needs within the community and developing a knowledge base with which to provide advice to government.

- Enabling connections and networks within and between veterans, the wider community and government.
- In this reporting period:
  - The QVC met with representatives of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to receive updates about the issues which have been highlighted through the Commissions hearings and enquiries.
  - The QVC met with representatives of the Office for Veterans in the Department to gain insight and understanding into their experience of the needs of veteran communities from a whole of government perspective.

# Looking ahead

2023-2024 will be an important year for the QVC.

In early November 2023, the QVC will assume trusteeship of Anzac Square. This pivotal moment marks the beginning of the QVC function to uphold and enhance Anzac Square's rightful place within Queensland's cultural heritage, honoring the sacrifices made by our veterans and connecting generations through their stories.

The QVC will also begin awarding the 2023 round of funds through the Anzac Day Trust Fund grant programs. We are committed to fostering the best possible outcomes for veterans through well-considered funding initiatives. By extending our support to those who have selflessly served and their families, we hope to play a role in improving their lives and acknowledging their contributions.

In our advisory role, we will continue engaging with the veterans' community, government, and the broader society. The wealth of knowledge and lived experiences within our community is an invaluable resource. By capturing and sharing these stories, we aspire to create a repository that informs and advises on vital solutions for veterans.

As we embark on this transformative year, we aim to move forward with optimism, embracing the challenges and opportunities that await us, as we look to honor the past, support the present, and inform the future for our veterans.

The QVC areas of focus for 2023-2024:

- Complete the transition of Anzac Square and Memorial Galleries to the trusteeship of the of QVC.
- Focus on establishing and enhancing the role of the VRG.
- Review, improve and refocus the delivery of the Anzac Day Trust Fund grants program.
- Further develop the model of support to enable the QVC to carry out its functions.
- Look for opportunities to advise government on matters of relevance and importance to Veterans.
- Actively engage with the veterans and broader community about matters of significance to veterans and their families.



# Our governance

## **QVC governance framework**

The QVC is developing a governance framework as it grows and matures that supports strategic and operational planning and mandated reporting aligned to the *Queensland Government Performance Management Framework Policy*.

## **Administrative support to the QVC**

The QVCS are employees of DPC and therefore details of workforce planning, performance and support for mental and physical wellbeing are included in the *DPC Annual Report 2022-2023*.

The QVCS's administrative support role is to ensure that appropriate governance support, frameworks, policies and procedures are in place to support the QVC and its functions.

## **Public sector ethics**

The QVC is a public sector entity for the purposes of the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. The Minister is the relevant responsible authority under that Act.

All QVC and VRG appointees are expected to demonstrate high ethical standards and values in accordance with the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service (the code), and the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. All members and QVCS staff complete mandatory training modules on the code, ethical decision making, fraud awareness and corruption prevention.

## **Risk management**

The QVC has the responsibility to assess risks and periodically monitor, review, communicate and consult on them. Business risks are managed by the QVCS with oversight from the QVC. On the basis that the QVC is a relatively small entity, the QVC has not established a risk management committee. The functions usually associated with a risk management committee are presently undertaken by the QVC itself. The QVC will continue to monitor its risk environment and the requirement for a risk management committee as the management of Anzac Square, the Anzac Day Trust Fund and its advisory role matures.

In 2023-2024 the QVC will develop a fit for purpose Risk Management Framework that aims to identify potential events that may affect the QVC and its functions and manage risk to effectively identify and manage its strategic and operational risks that is consistent with the

requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*.

## **Internal audit**

In its first year of operations, and in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*, the QVC has not considered it necessary to embed an internal audit function. The QVC may reconsider this position during the 2023-2024 financial year as it matures.

## **Human rights**

With respect to the *Human Rights Act 2019* the QVC considers that during the reporting period:

- its actions and decisions were compatible with human rights; and
- in making its decisions, it properly considered any human right relevant to the decision.

No human rights complaints were made to the Board during the reporting period.

The QVC will continue to review its human rights obligations and its position as it matures.

## **External scrutiny**

Queensland Government agencies can be reviewed by various authorities and bodies, including the *Queensland Audit Office (QAO)*, parliamentary committees, board of inquiries, the Crime and Corruption Commissioner, the Queensland Ombudsman, and the Information Commissioner Queensland.

No external reviews were undertaken of the QVC and its functions during the reporting period.

## **Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment**

Officers of the QVCS are employed by DPC; therefore, details of early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment are included in the *DPC Annual Report 2022-2023*.

# Information systems and recordkeeping

## Provision of information systems and record keeping services

Information systems and recordkeeping services are provided to QVC by DPC and are addressed in the DPC Annual Report.

## Information security attestations

Information security services are provided to QVC by DPC in compliance with section 39 of the *Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021* with respect to core ICT services, devices, and records management.

## Open Data

The following data sets are required to be published on the Queensland Government Open Data website at [www.data.qld.gov.au](http://www.data.qld.gov.au)

- Consultancies
- Overseas travel
- Language services

QVC had no consultancies or overseas travel expenditure in 2022-2023 and did not use any translator or interpreter services.

# Financial summary

The financial statements included in this Annual Report cover the period from 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023 and represent the first trading period of operation for the QVC.

## Overview

For the period the QVC recorded an operating surplus of \$64,762.

## Revenue

Total revenue for the period was \$451,843, made up of grant funding (\$136,000), goods and services received below fair value from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (\$301,772) and contributions received from the former Anzac Day Trust (\$14,071).

## Expenses

Total expenses for the operating period were \$387,081 and are made up of council member fees, operating expenses and departmental goods and services supplied below fair value for administrative support provided to the QVC supplies and services.

## Financial Position

### Assets and Liabilities

As at 30 June 2023, the QVC's net asset position was \$64,761 being cash and cash equivalents of \$150,071 offset by liabilities of \$85,310 for the provision of operating expenses.

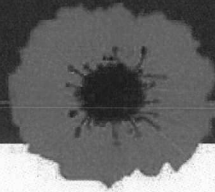
## Comparative information

No comparative information is provided as the QVC commenced as a statutory body on 4 November 2022.



Queensland Government

QUEENSLAND  
Veterans' Council



# **Queensland Veterans' Council Financial Statements**

**For the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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**Queensland Veterans' Council**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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**Queensland Veterans' Council**  
**Statement of Income and Accumulated Surpluses**  
**for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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	Notes	2023 \$
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>		
Grants and other contributions	2.	451,843
		<hr/>
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		451,843
		<hr/>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>		
Employee expenses	3.	8,928
Supplies and services	4.	76,381
Goods and services supplied below fair value	2.	301,772
		<hr/>
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		387,081
		<hr/>
<b>Operating result surplus for the year</b>		64,762
		<hr/>
<b>Plus accumulated surpluses at the beginning of the financial year</b>		-
		<hr/>
<b>Accumulated surpluses at the end of the financial year</b>		64,762
		<hr/>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*

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# Queensland Veterans' Council

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

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	Notes	2023 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	5.	150,071
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>150,071</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>150,071</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	6.	85,310
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>85,310</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>85,310</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>64,761</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated surplus		64,762
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>64,762</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*



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**Queensland Veterans' Council**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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	Notes	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Inflows:		
Grants and other contributions		150,071
		<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>150,071</b>
		<hr/>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>150,071</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year</b>		-
		<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	5.	<b>150,071</b>
		<hr/>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*

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# Queensland Veterans' Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023

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Note 1:	Basis of Financial Statement Preparation
Note 2:	Grants and Other Contributions
Note 3:	Employee Expenses
Note 4:	Supplies and Services
Note 5:	Cash and Cash Equivalents
Note 6:	Payables
Note 7:	Transfer of net assets from the Anzac Day Trust on 14 April 2023
Note 8:	Key Management Personnel (KMP) Disclosures
Note 9:	Related Party Transactions
Note 10:	Contingencies

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# Queensland Veterans' Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023

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### 1. Basis of Financial Statement Preparation

#### (a) General information

These financial statements cover the Queensland Veterans' Council (the Council). The Council is an independent statutory body established under the *Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021 (the Act)*. The Council does not control other entities, the financial statements are for the Council as an individual entity.

The objective of the Council is to provide advice to the Queensland Government on veterans' matters, hold and manage Anzac Square and administer the Anzac Day Trust Fund (the Fund). The head office and principal place of business of the Council is 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000.

#### (b) Authorisation of Financial Statements for Issue

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Chair and Transition Lead, QVC Secretariat at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

#### (c) Compliance with Prescribed Requirements

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*.

These general purpose financial statements are prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures. The financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements of all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to not-for-profit entities, and the presentation requirements in those standards as modified by AASB 1060.

#### (d) Underlying measurement basis

The financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis, with the exception of the statement of cash flows which is prepared on a cash basis.

#### (e) Presentation Matters

Currency - Amounts included in the financial statements are in Australian dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar.

Comparatives - No comparative information has been provided as this is the Council's first year of operation.

Current / non-current classification - Assets are classified as 'current' where their carrying amount is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting date. Liabilities are classified as 'current' when they are due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting date, or the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement to beyond 12 months after the reporting date. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

#### (f) Taxation

The Council is a State body as defined under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* and is exempt from Commonwealth taxation with the exception of Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST). FBT and GST are the only taxes accounted for by the Council. GST credits receivable from, and GST payable to the Australian Taxation Office, are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### (g) New and Revised Accounting Standards

First time mandatory application of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations

No new accounting pronouncements applicable for the first time in 2022-23 had a material impact on the foundation.

Early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations

No accounting pronouncements were early adopted in the 2022-23 financial year.

Voluntary changes in accounting policy

No voluntary changes in accounting policies occurred during the 2022-23 financial year.

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# Queensland Veterans' Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023

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	2023
	\$
<b>2. Grants and Other Contributions</b>	
Contributions from Government*	136,000
Contribution from the former Anzac Day Trust	14,071
Goods and Services received below fair value	301,772
<b>Total</b>	<b>451,843</b>

\* Represents grant funding from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the delivery of the Council's operational objectives.

### Accounting Policy

Grants and contributions are non-reciprocal transactions where the Council does not directly give approximately equal value to the grantor. As the grant does not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, the grant is accounted for under AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* and revenue is recognised upon receipt of grant funding.

The Council recognises goods and services received below fair value only if the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated and their value can be measured reliably. Where this is the case, an equal amount is recognised as revenue with a corresponding expense.

The Council received goods and services below fair value from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet which provides administrative support services in accordance with s39 of the *Veterans Council Act 2021*.

	2023
	\$
<b>3. Employee Expenses</b>	
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	
Council member fees	8,080
Employer superannuation contributions	848
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,928</b>

### Accounting Policy

#### Employer superannuation contributions

Superannuation benefits are provided through defined contribution (accumulation) plans in accordance with employees' conditions of employment and employee instructions as to superannuation plans.

Defined contribution plans – Employer contributions are based on rates specified under conditions of employment. The Council's contributions are expensed when they become payable at each pay period.

	2023
	\$
<b>4. Supplies and Services</b>	
Legal fees	21,982
Administration costs	16,617
Advertising and promotion	13,566
Contractors and consultants	10,149
Audit fees	10,000
Travel	3,157
Stakeholder engagement	742
Office accommodation	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,381</b>

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**Queensland Veterans' Council**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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**4. Supplies and Services (continued)**

**Accounting Policy**

Supplies and services expenses are recorded on an accrual basis as the Council receives the goods and services.

**2023**  
\$

**5. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash at bank 150,071

**Total** 150,071

**Accounting Policy**

Cash and Cash Equivalents include all cash and cheques received at 30 June as well as deposits held at call with financial institutions.

**6. Payables**

**2023**  
\$

Audit fees 10,000

Payables to related parties 75,310

**Total** 85,310

**Accounting Policy**

Payables to related parties represent amounts owed to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for Council's supplies and services as reported in the Statement of Income and Accumulated Surpluses.

**7. Transfer of net assets from the Anzac Day Trust on 14 April 2023**

The Anzac Day Trust was abolished effective 14 April 2023 and the following amounts were transferred for nil consideration. The book values of the net assets recorded in the Anzac Day Trust were recognised as revenue in the Council as per accounting requirements.

**2023**  
\$

**Current Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents 14,071

**Total Current Assets** 14,071

**Net Assets** 14,071

**Equity**

Accumulated surplus 14,071

**Total Equity** 14,071

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# Queensland Veterans' Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023

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### 8. Key Management Personnel (KMP) Disclosures

#### Details of Key Management Personnel

The Council's responsible Minister is identified as part of the Council's KMP, consistent with additional guidance included in the revised version of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures*. That Minister is the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The following details for non-ministerial key executive management personnel include those positions that had authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council during 2022-23. Further information on these positions can be found in the body of the Annual Report under the section relating to Executive Management.

Position	Position Responsibility
Chair and Members	The strategic leadership, guidance and effective oversight of the management of the Council, including its operational and financial performance.

#### Council Member Remuneration Policies

The remuneration policy of the Chair and members is as set at Regulation, Administration and Advice Level 2 (Daily) per *Remuneration Procedures for Part-time Chairs and Members of Government Boards*.

Remuneration expenses for key management personnel totalled \$8,928 including superannuation, as reflected in the Statement of Income and Accumulated Surpluses.

### 9. Related Party Transactions

#### Transactions with people/entities related to KMP

There were no transactions with people or entities related to our KMP in 2022-23.

#### Transactions with other Queensland Government-controlled entities

The Council received funding from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The funding provided is predominately for operational requirements and delivery of legislative functions (refer Note 2).

### 10. Contingencies

There are no legal or any other contingencies that are known to the Council at 30 June 2023.

**Management Certificate  
for Queensland Veterans' Council**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to section 62(1)(a) of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* (the Act), section 39 of the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019* and other prescribed requirements. In accordance with section 62 (1)(b) of the Act we certify that in our opinion:

- (a) the prescribed requirements for establishing and keeping the accounts have been complied with in all material respects;
- (b) the statements have been drawn up to present a true and fair view, in accordance with prescribed accounting standards, of the transactions of the Queensland Veteran's Council for the financial period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023 and of the financial position of the Council at the end of that period.

We acknowledge responsibility under section 7 and section 11 of the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019* for the establishment and maintenance, in all material respects, of an appropriate and effective system of internal controls and risk management processes with respect to financial reporting throughout the reporting period.



.....  
**QUENTIN MASSON**  
Chair  
Queensland Veterans' Council Secretariat



.....  
**MEGAN READ**  
Transition Lead  
Queensland Veterans' Council Secretariat

Date: 30.08.2023

Date: 30 August 2023

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the chairperson of the Queensland Veterans' Council

### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Queensland Veterans' Council.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- b) complies with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019 and Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements.

The financial report comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, the statement of income and accumulated surpluses, and statement of cash flows for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information, and the management certificate.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Responsibilities of the entity for the financial report

The chairperson is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019 and Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements, and for such internal control as the chairperson determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The chairperson is also responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is intended to abolish the entity or to otherwise cease operations.



## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. This is not done for the purpose of forming an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls, but allows me to form an opinion on compliance with prescribed requirements.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the entity.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the chairperson regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

### **Statement**

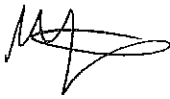
In accordance with s.40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, for the period 4 November 2022 to 30 June 2023:

- a) I received all the information and explanations I required.

- b) I consider that, the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts were complied with in all material respects.

**Prescribed requirements scope**

The prescribed requirements for the establishment and keeping of accounts are contained in the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, any other Act and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019. The applicable requirements include those for keeping financial records that correctly record and explain the entity's transactions and account balances to enable the preparation of a true and fair financial report.



Melissa Fletcher  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

31 August 2023

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

# Glossary

**ADF** Australian Defence Force

**BCC** Brisbane City Council

**BCP** Business Continuity Plan

**DPC** Department of the Premier and Cabinet

**eDRMS** Electronic Document Records Management System

**ESO** Ex-service Organisation

**FAA** Financial Accountability Act 2009

**FBT** Fringe Benefit Tax

**FPMS** Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019

**FTE** Full-time equivalent

**GST** Goods and Services Tax

**ICT** Information and communication technology

**ISSN** International Standard Serial Number

**ITS** Information Technology Services

**PSM** Public Service Medal

**QAO** Queensland Audit Office

**QGIF** Queensland Government Insurance Fund

**QVC** Queensland Veterans' Council

**QVCS** Queensland Veterans' Council Secretariat

**VRG** Veterans Reference Group

# Compliance Checklist

Summary of requirement		Basis for requirement	Annual report reference
Letter of compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A letter of compliance from the accountable officer or statutory body to the relevant Minister/s</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 7	Letter of compliance
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table of contents</li> <li>Glossary</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 9.1	Contents Glossary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public availability</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 9.2	Communication objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpreter service statement</li> </ul>	<i>Queensland Government Language Services Policy</i> ARRs – section 9.3	Communication objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copyright notice</li> </ul>	<i>Copyright Act 1968</i> ARRs – section 9.4	Copyright
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Licensing</li> </ul>	<i>QGEA – Information Licensing</i> ARRs – section 9.5	Licence
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductory Information</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 10	Message from the Chair About Us Government objectives for the community
Non-financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government's objectives for the community and whole-of-government plans/specific initiatives</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 11.1	About the Queensland Veterans' Council Government objectives for the community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency objectives and performance indicators</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 11.2	Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency service areas and service standards</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 11.3	Performance
Financial performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of financial performance</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 12.1	Financial summary 2022-2023
Governance – management and structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisational structure</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 13.1	About the Queensland Veterans' Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive management</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 13.2	Our governance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government bodies (statutory bodies and other entities)</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 13.3	Our governance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Sector Ethics</li> </ul>	<i>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</i> ARRs – section 13.4	Our governance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Rights</li> </ul>	<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> ARRs – section 13.5	Our governance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queensland public service values</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 13.6	DPC 2022-2023 Annual Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk management</li> </ul>	ARRs – section 14.1	Our governance

Summary of requirement		Basis for requirement	Annual report reference
<b>Governance – risk management and accountability</b>	• <b>Audit committee</b>	ARRs – section 14.2	Our governance
	• <b>Internal audit</b>	ARRs – section 14.3	Our governance
	• <b>External scrutiny</b>	ARRs – section 14.4	Our governance
	• <b>Information systems and recordkeeping</b>	ARRs – section 14.5	DPC 2022-2023 Annual Report
	• <b>Information Security attestation</b>	ARRs – section 14.6	DPC 2022-2023 Annual Report
<b>Governance – human resources</b>	• <b>Strategic workforce planning and performance</b>	ARRs – section 15.1	DPC 2022-2023 Annual Report
	• <b>Early retirement, redundancy and retrenchment</b>	Directive No.04/18 <i>Early Retirement, Redundancy and Retrenchment</i> ARRs – section 15.2	DPC 2022-2023 Annual Report
<b>Open Data</b>	• <b>Statement advising publication of information</b>	ARRs – section 16	About this report
	• <b>Consultancies</b>	ARRs – section 31.1	<a href="https://data.qld.gov.au">https://data.qld.gov.au</a>
	• <b>Overseas travel</b>	ARRs – section 31.2	<a href="https://data.qld.gov.au">https://data.qld.gov.au</a>
	• <b>Queensland Language Services Policy</b>	ARRs – section 31.3	<a href="https://data.qld.gov.au">https://data.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Financial statements</b>	• <b>Certification of financial statements</b>	FAA – section 62 FPMS – sections 38, 39 and 46 ARRs – section 17.1	Financial Statements 2022-2023
	• <b>Independent Auditor’s Report</b>	FAA – section 62 FPMS – section 46 ARRs – section 17.2	Financial Statements 2022-2023

FAA *Financial Accountability Act 2009*

FPMS *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*

ARRs *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*