



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron: Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN – 22/12/2025: 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE 1951-1972

To All Members: Please consider your availability to attend this singularly important 75th anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 event that recognises the Service and Sacrifice of all former National Servicemen and their families.

If you intend to attend the Commemorative Service, please use the on-line facility that appears in the attached DVA notice and invitation, if at all possible. If you do not have a 'smart phone' or the capacity to scan the QR code in the attachment, please ask a family member or friend for assistance to register for your attendance.

Further assistance is available by contacting DVA as the email address provided within the attached document.

Please also consider whether you would like to contribute to the event, not only by your attendance, but by contributing to our and our National Service history using the following options.

- By being prepared to offer a story verbally, or in writing for use at the Commemorative Service.
- Your story may be included in the printed in the Commemorative Order of Service.
- Be prepared to be interviewed by DVA a representative to record your story for historical purposes and or be broadcast before the Commemorative Service.

You will be able to register your willingness to participate in the 'story telling' if you are using the on-line registration facility and providing DVA with your contact details. DVA will provide assistance in writing a draft of your story, for your approval, provide prompt questions that may assist you to formulate your story, or prepare you for a recorded interview.

Both DVA and the DVA sponsored consultative committee, of which I am a member representing the NSAA, the Officer Training Unit Association, and the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association, recognise that the date of the Canberra event may coincide with NSAA member association and members planned Nasho Day 2026 commemorations. However, I trust members will make an effort to fit this special commemorative event at the Great Hall of Parliament into their schedule of activities and make it a very special day to record our nation's gratitude for our service and sacrifice.

Yours sincerely.

President: Ron Brandy
(03) 5222 4437 0415 256 167
r.brandy@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Pete Norman
0458 646 594
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National Service Honour Roll: 287,000 served; 212 died on active service

Sarah Kennedy | Assistant Secretary
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Commemorative.Events@dva.gov.au

www.dva.gov.au



I acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of this Country and pay my respect to Elders past and present.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will be delivering a national commemorative service on Saturday 14 February 2026 for the 75th anniversary of National Service 1951-1972.

Date: Saturday 14 February 2026

Time: Pre-service program commences at 10.30am
Commemorative service and broadcast commences at 11.00am (expected duration: 60 minutes)

Venue: Great Hall, Parliament House, Government Drive, Canberra, ACT

We respectfully request that you note this date and reserve it in your calendar should you wish to attend. For your information, DVA has engaged the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to broadcast the service.

Further details regarding the program and ceremonial proceedings will be communicated in due course, including on the DVA website [75th anniversary of National Service 1951-72 | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

We deeply value your engagement, and we look forward to commemorating this significant date together.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any information at this time.

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Service	Nationally broadcast commemorative service to mark the 75th anniversary of National Service 1951-1972
Date	Saturday 14 February 2026, 11:00am AEDT
Location	The Great Hall , Australia Parliament House, Canberra
Registration	Please register via the Online Registration System

National Commemorative Service To mark the 75th anniversary of National Service (1951-1972), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will be holding a National Commemorative Service at the Great Hall, Australian Parliament House, Canberra ([visit Google Maps](#)) on National Servicemen's Day, 14 February 2026.

The service will also be broadcast nationally by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and streamed online to provide members of the community the opportunity to acknowledge the anniversary from their home.

More information about the National Commemorative Service will be published to this page as it becomes available. Please check back shortly.

Key Timings: The National Commemorative Service will run as follows:

- 10:30am – Pre-service program commences
- 11:00am – Official service commences
- 12:00pm – Official service concludes

Background: National service refers to two conscription schemes for the armed forces that operated during the Cold War. Both schemes saw young men conscripted into Australia's armed forces for full-time and part-time service. Those who served in the national service schemes were affectionately known as 'Nashos'.

- The National Service Training Scheme (NSTS) ran from 1951 to 1959. It required nearly all 18-year-old males to be registered for national service and undergo between 3 and 6 months of full-time training in one of the armed services followed by a part-time service commitment in either the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, Citizen Military Force, or Citizen Air Force.
- The National Service Scheme (NSS) ran from 1965 to 1972. This scheme required males turning 20 and resident in Australia to register for potential national service and then men were selected for national service by a ballot system. Those selected were required to complete 2 years of full-time service with the Australian Regular Army or six years of part-time service in the CMF. Nashos in this scheme could serve in Australia or overseas, including in Vietnam, Malaysia (including in the Indonesian Confrontation), Singapore, and Papua New Guinea.

Over 280,000 young men were called up for national service between 1951 and 1972 with the last Nashos discharged in 1974. More than 200 died on active service overseas and others died while serving in Australia. Although many young men were proud to serve their country in uniform, national service came at a personal cost for all Nashos, irrespective of the nature and location of their service.

Registering your attendance: You may also register by scanning the QR code:



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Alternatively, you may provide your name and contact details for registration to DVA via email to Commemorative.Events@dva.gov.au.

A ticket/attendance pass will not be required to enter. However, the registration process will ensure that adequate arrangements can be put in place for seating.

Attendees with an accessibility requirement will be able to provide details through the registration form. This will allow DVA to plan appropriately and send you relevant details about the service.

Planning your journey: Attendees are encouraged to plan their journey and arrival times carefully. We encourage you to arrive early to ensure you have sufficient time to progress through Parliament House Security and find a seat. A pre-service program will commence at 10:30am and we advise attendees to arrive early and be seated by 10:15am. Further Information about public transport arrangements will be made available shortly.

Media: The service will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC. There will be media present at the service. Attendees should be aware that camera operators move around the site, and that cables may be laid along the ground. Please take care. Accredited media will be restricted to designated media zones.

Resources: DVA develops a range of commemorative and educational materials to further help recognise and remember Australia's National Servicemen (NASHOS). To learn more about Australians in the National Service schemes from 1951 to 1972, visit our [Anzac Portal](#).

Open Arms: Open Arms provides free mental health and wellbeing support to anyone who has served at least one day of continuous fulltime service in the ADF and their immediate families. Available at any time of the day or night, every day of the year. To find out more call [1800 011 046](tel:1800011046).

Contact information

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Phone: [1800 838 372](tel:1800838372) within Australia

Tel: [+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133) from outside Australia

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