



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Memorial appoints Indigenous Liaison Officer

Australian War Memorial Director Steve Gower today announced the appointment of an Indigenous Liaison Officer to work with the community on a research project that will enhance its collection and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women.

“I am pleased to announce that Gary Oakley is to take on the important role of Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Australian War Memorial,” he said.

“Mr Oakley has worked here since 1991 and is also the National President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans and Service Association of Australia (ATSIVSAA), and a member of the Navy Reserve.

“Over some years, Mr Oakley has made significant contributions to enhancing the knowledge of Indigenous affairs across a broad range of issues. With this appointment he will provide an important point of contact between the Indigenous community and the Memorial.”

The Memorial holds a rich collection of material related to Indigenous servicemen and women of the past and present. This includes embarkation information, prisoner of war records, Red Cross files, personal letters, service details, photographs and medals.

Mr Oakley will also assist the Memorial in a research project to capture specific records into a single database that will provide links between the Memorial’s Indigenous records and its collection material. The Memorial has consulted widely and looks to enhance this aspect of its program.

While in its early stages, it is envisaged that the project will be a significant resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families, communities, students and researchers.

**Further information:**

Leigh Harris (02) 6243 4575 0409 600 038  
Emma Campbell (02) 6263 6627

[media@awm.gov.au](mailto:media@awm.gov.au)  
[media@awm.gov.au](mailto:media@awm.gov.au)

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