
THEME 1 | *a place for veterans and their families*

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Australian War Memorial is an important place for all Australians, where they can remember the service and sacrifice of those who have served in war and on operations. This is perhaps best expressed in the words of the Memorial's founder, Charles Bean: *"Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made."* Since opening in 1941, the Memorial has recognised, honoured and told the stories of our defence force personnel and their experiences in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The Memorial's ability to respectfully commemorate and display these stories is now at capacity; visitor numbers remain strong and modern conflicts are under-represented. There is no further gallery space to tell the stories of what is happening now and for the future. A significant redevelopment is required to improve the experience, education and understanding of our visitors by increasing gallery space and improving amenities.

The Memorial is developing a detailed proposal to submit to the Federal Government for funding for this project, and is also developing a Precinct Masterplan to create a vision that will guide the Memorial for the next 50 years.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Memorial is currently seeking feedback on a range of project themes in order to help shape the Government submission and the Precinct Masterplan. There are five key themes the Memorial is seeking feedback on.



HOW CAN WE BEST SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHEN THEY VISIT THE MEMORIAL?

We would like to ensure the Australian War Memorial makes our nations' current and former servicemen and women, and their families feel welcome and comfortable. As we plan for the future, we want to create more spaces where veterans and families can find a quiet moment to reflect and we plan to make it easier for veterans to access and move about the Memorial.

A veteran is anyone who has served, or is still serving, in the Australian Defence Force. The Memorial wants to create a better place for visitors to understand the Australian experience of war and in turn increase the respect and appreciation they hold for those that have served, those that are still serving and for their families who love and support them.

Noise from displays can be confronting for some visitors



RESPITE, REFLECTION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The content of the galleries and the commemorative spaces often provokes an emotional response from veterans, their families and other visitors; which may require them to seek a quiet space away from displays and other visitors. At present there are very limited spaces for reflection and contemplation throughout the Memorial. We also want veterans to be able to avoid areas that they do not want to visit, or that may trigger an emotional response by increasing the connectivity between the gallery spaces.

It is important that all veterans and visitors can access the entire Memorial. The age of the building coupled with a number of additions over the years, has meant that access to facilities, amenities and exits in parts of the Memorial can be limited. Looking forward we are considering the best ways to ensure access including parking, mobility, assistance dogs as well as the paths to different areas in the galleries.

We are seeking input on how to create appropriate spaces and access for veterans and their families at the Memorial.

HONOURING THEIR EXPERIENCES

Current space restrictions at the Memorial present a critical problem when it comes to telling the stories of recent conflicts. Space limitations have led to important collection items being displayed in hallways, or alongside amenities and staff access areas. The Memorial does not believe this is an adequate way to honour our veterans.

Many veterans and their families also wish to access exhibits that have a personal connection.

What other ways would you like to see veterans' experiences reflected in the gallery areas?

Important displays have been placed in hallways due to space restrictions

