

LEGACY AUSTRALIA  
Keeping the promise







## LEGACY AUSTRALIA

Still keeping the promise

Legacy is a uniquely Australian not for profit organisation dedicated to the welfare of families after the incapacitation or death of a spouse or parent, during or after their defence force service.



“When my father, a Vietnam veteran, died suddenly in 1995, it had a massive impact on our family. I’m thankful to this day that Legacy was there to step into the breach. They were able to soften the grief and sense of despair through emotional support. They were also able to provide a buffer for the financial situation that had changed so suddenly. They understand the word commitment. They understand the need for compassion. They understand what it means to make a promise. The volunteers – and those whom work under the Legacy banner – do such amazing and important work and they need our help so they can continue to help others.

Other widows, widowers, sons and daughters will always need a shoulder to lean on in a time of great loss and they will always be able to rely on the support and gentle helping hand that Legacy provides.

Today, I believe that if not for Legacy then things may have been different for myself and my family, yet I am lucky they were there and cared so much about us.”

**Corporal Mark Donaldson VC**  
Legacy kid



## ABOUT LEGACY

Legacy is a uniquely and iconic Australian organisation. Legacy is predicated on the fundamental belief that veterans have a special obligation to the families of their comrades who gave their life or health in defence of the nation.

Legacy commenced in the 1920’s in the wake of World War I. Some 60,000 Australian service personnel were killed during the war and over 150,000 were wounded, many dying in the years immediately after the War. The returned servicemen established Legacy Clubs throughout Australia to ensure that the families of those killed in or who died subsequent to war were not financially or socially disadvantaged.

From the outset, Legacy was involved with young widows and young children. This was in an era when a modest widow’s pension was no guarantee that the family unit was sustainable. Children who did not receive adequate care and oversight were readily placed into State care. Not only had they lost their father, they were at high risk of losing their mothers too. Legatees were there to provide the support, advice and assistance needed to help the widows raise their children.

Becoming a Legacy child was a far better outcome than becoming a Ward of the State. Benefiting from Legacy’s nurturing care in their formative years; many of the Legacy children have gone on to contribute to Australian society through their achievements on the world, national and local stages.

The situation was repeated after World War II. Today, while many of those Legacy serves are in their 80s, Legacy continues to support young widows and young children.

The African proverb “It takes a whole village to raise a child” is applied by Legacy in over 300 locations across Australia.

For more than 90 years the task has gone on. The dependants of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Malayan Emergency and Vietnam War are still cared for. In addition to the peacekeeping operations in Bougainville, East Timor and the Solomon Islands, the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan remind us all that Legacy’s vital work is ongoing.

Over the years, membership of Legacy has been extended such that anyone who believes that the families of those who died or gave their health deserve a special place in our society is welcome to join.

Recently, Legacy agreed to extend Legacy benefits to the families of Australian Defence Force members where the death is deemed to be service related.

Legacy cares for around 80,000 veterans’ dependants, ranging in age from less than 12 months to 109 years, and with over 340,000 veterans alive in Australia today, the task is not going away in the foreseeable future. As the veterans of latter day conflicts deal with ill health and incapacity, Legacy is there to help the family survive some tough times.

“Your role is as relevant now as when the organisation started. It is completely untenable for me to imagine a nation without Legacy”

**Senator Michael Ronaldson**  
Minister for Veterans’ Affairs





# THE CHARTER OF LEGACY

The Spirit of Legacy is Service

The care of dependants of those who served their country; namely veterans who died on operational service or subsequently, and Australian Defence Force personnel who died as a result of their service, affords a field for service

Safeguarding the interests of dependants, especially children, is a service worth rendering

Personal effort is the main essential

Inasmuch as these are the activities of Legacy, it is our privilege to accept the legacy of the fallen



## OUR VISION

Our vision is that no dependant of an Australian Defence Force member suffers financial or social disadvantage as a result of the operational service death or incapacity of the family member.

## OUR MISSION

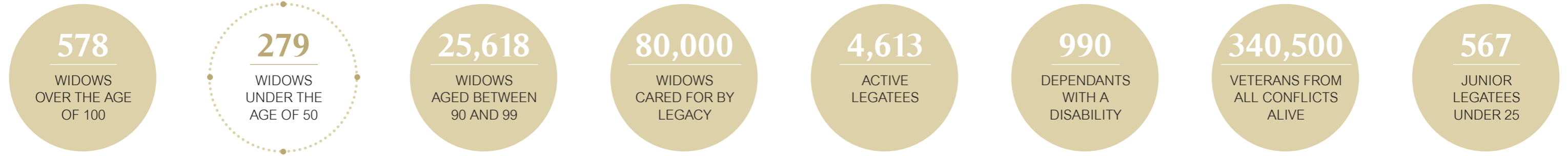
Legacy Australia strives to ensure social justice for the dependants of incapacitated or fallen military personnel. Social justice is the ability people have to realize their potential in the society where they live.

## OUR VALUES

The first Legacy Club was started in Melbourne in 1923 by Lieutenant-General (later Sir) Stan Savige who espoused:

- Legacy is greater than any of its members or any of its Clubs.
- Personal service is the main essential.
- If a job is worthwhile doing the money will come.
- All dependants of deceased servicemen regardless of time, place or manner of death are deserving of Legacy aid.
- Co-ordination is necessary between clubs, but it must be co-ordination, not control; co-operation, not domination.
- There must be no rewards in Legacy. No member should gain financially or socially from membership.
- There is no room in Legacy for sectarianism, politics, social distinction or rank.
- The only court of appeal is an unwritten law of cobbles in the field of battle.





## OUR LEGACY FAMILY

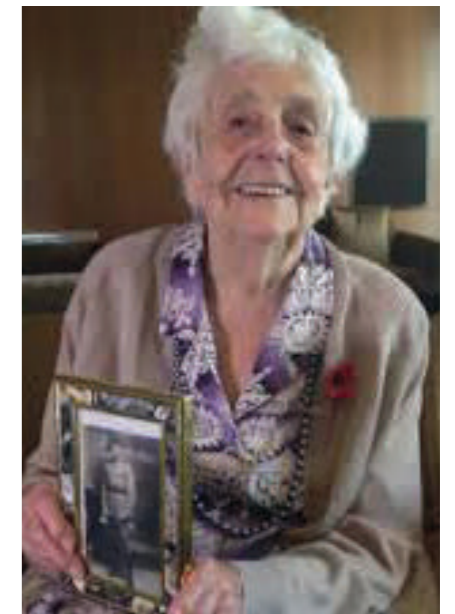
Legacy currently cares for around 80,000 widows/widowers of defence personnel who died on operations or subsequently. Legacy also cares for about 1500 children and dependants with a disability. The average age of the widows is now over 80 years.

There are also many veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other significant physical and emotional incapacity. Legacy is now offering support to a number of families where the veteran is unable to care for their family.

72,000 Australians have served overseas since 1991. This is more than the number who served overseas from 1950 to 1990. By 2025, the Department of Veterans' Affairs projections indicate that there will still be at least 25,000 widows being cared for by Legacy.

No figure has been put on the number of families likely to need Legacy support due to incapacity.

All these widows and families are the reason Legacy's work is far from complete. Future generations of Australians will expect Legacy to continue to keep the promise.



### LEGATEES

Legacy is a member based organisation. Service is the essential ingredient. The delivery of Legacy benefits and services has traditionally been carried out by volunteers. These volunteers are called Legatees. Legatees are organised into 50 clubs across Australia and in London and are represented in over 300 locations around the country.

In recent years, many clubs have engaged paid staff to undertake a wide range of administrative, social and fundraising tasks. While paid staff play a vital role within Legacy, the fundamental ethos is one of service by Legatees. This is one of the defining features of Legacy.

### OUR GOALS

The work of Legacy is to create the environment where:

- Families and dependants feel that they are valued members of Australian society
- Children enjoy and experience the best upbringing, education and opportunities that Legacy can facilitate
- Families and dependants receive the full extent of pension and other financial support to which they are entitled
- Families and dependants receive the full extent of government and community support to which they are entitled
- Families and dependants receive the best possible comfort, support and friendship that Legacy can provide
- In spite of their loss, we help ensure resilient families and dependants.

### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In achieving these goals, Legacy will be guided by the following principles:

- No other organisation understands and respects the unique nature of the suffering, grief and loss experienced by Legacy families and dependants
- Children have a special place in all that Legacy does and hopes to achieve
- Legacy families and dependants will be treated with compassion, understanding and empathy
- All dependants are treated as individuals
- As an organisation, Legacy strives to ensure that programs and support are contemporary, needs based and client focused
- Every widow and child has the personal support of a dedicated Legatee

“ Legacy helped my late mother raise four kids in a difficult financial environment. When we lost our father, who served in PNG during WW II, we all felt a stigma but Legacy constantly eased our pain with practical support through school uniform needs and sporting equipment. Our Legatee, the late Sir Ivan Dougherty was like a second father with his words of advice and wisdom. He was instrumental in my securing a cadetship with ABC Sport. My family's debt to Legacy can never be repaid. ”

**Gordon Bray**  
Network Ten journalist and Legacy kid





“My father died suddenly at the age of 46, leaving my mother to bring up four children. My mother had a nervous breakdown and spent considerable time in hospital recovering from severe depression. In those days there wasn't the services that would be available today. Our aunts and uncles helped of course but like our family, they too were working class poor from Port Adelaide. For the next fifteen years, Legatee Charles Ian Birnie was a part of our family. If it hadn't been for this man and Legacy, our family as a unit, would not have survived. Of that I have no doubt. These people are statues of decency.”

**Bryan Dawe**  
Comedian and Legacy kid



Children of Luke Gavin who was killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan in October 2011

## OUR WORK

Legacy has four strategic pillars.

### Care and Compassion

Care is the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something.

Compassion literally means “to suffer together.” It is defined as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.

### Overcoming social isolation

Social isolation - the absence of social relationships - is typically considered unhealthy when people spend excessive time alone.

### Provision of social support

Social support is the perception and actuality that one is cared for, has assistance available from other people, and that one is part of a supportive social network.

### Advocacy

Advocacy is a political process by an individual or group which aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.





Legatee Des Ward  
with Isaac Zariffa

“ Legacy has always been there for mum and I and I could not thank them enough ”

Myalls Fawcett

“ God’s Angels at work! They’re everywhere, we only have to look! ”

Anne Haines

“ I’m a Legatee and it’s one of the most wonderful parts of my life looking after my Ladies ”

Anthony Weston

## WHAT WE DO



### Provision of social support

- Provide grief support, care and compassion
- Facilitate the provision of the full range of government and non-government support, counselling, financial assistance and other programs
- Provide short and long term financial assistance
- Provide informed referral to welfare and other support providers
- Provide mentoring to Legacy children
- Provide financial assistance for the education of Legacy children
- Provide informal advice and assistance with aged care placement and emergency accommodation arrangements



### Care and Compassion

- Ensure welfare providers, agencies and services understand the unique circumstances of Legacy widows and children
- Ensure Legacy services are provided in a timely manner, are relevant to the recipients’ needs and demonstrate Legacy’s commitment to care and compassion
- Emphasise the unique relationship between service in the ADF and Legacy



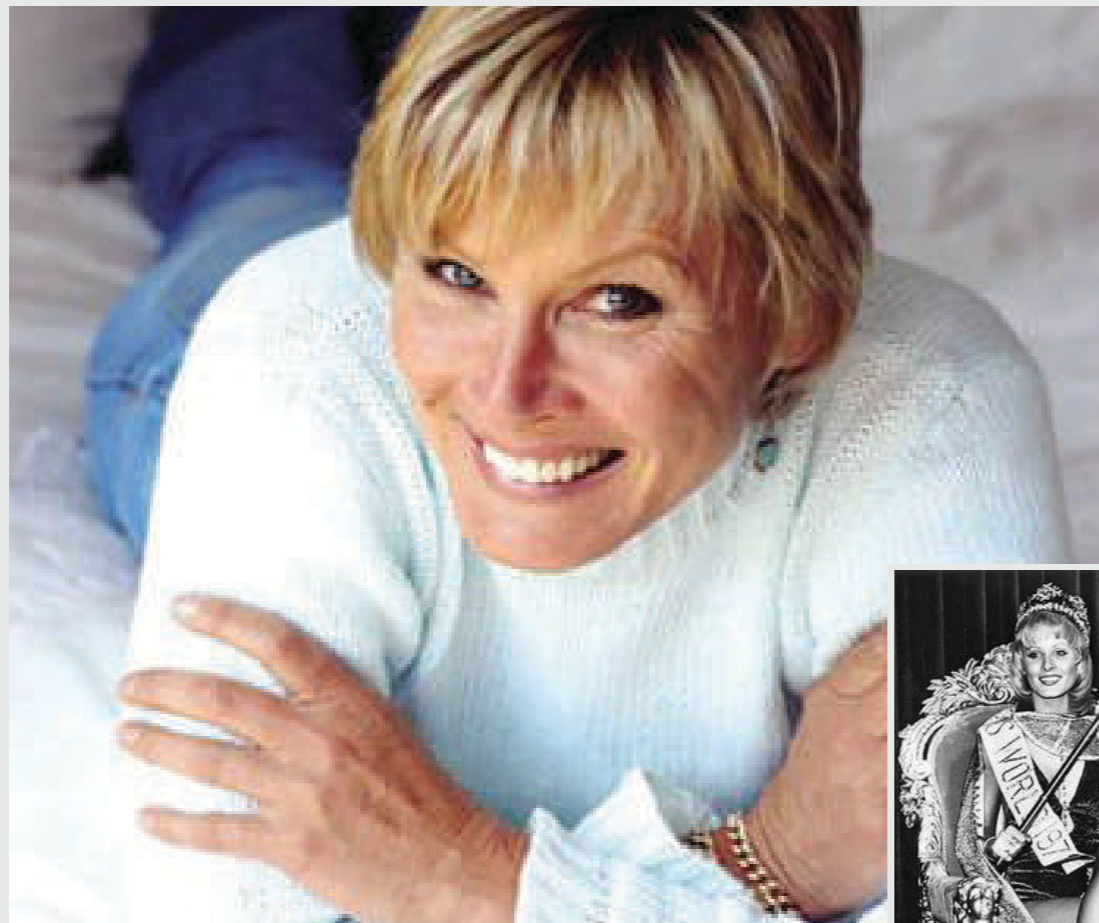
### Overcoming isolation

- Maintain and extend the personal visitation program for widows and children
- Conduct camps, excursions and other outings for children and dependants with a disability
- Provide transport and mobility assistance
- Provide a range of social, recreational and educational activities, including Laurel Clubs and Care Groups which meet the needs of our widows Groups
- Maintain regular contact with widows through
  - Visits by Legatees
  - Visits by community support staff and volunteers
  - Regular Newsletters
  - Regular Phone calls
  - Provision of vital alarm systems where necessary



“ My beautiful Dad “Ossie” went to WW2 at a very young age then came home to marry my Mum Gwen. They worked hard to buy the block of land in Blacktown then build a house. Dad was never well after his return home from the war and at 40 years old he had a stroke and died. Mum then had the task of bringing up 4 children on her own. ... She worked in a factory. As a child I remember Mum would write letters requesting time to pay bills (which she always did). She would start her letter with “Dear Sir I am a war widow....” It says a lot. It was a struggle. I am one of 4 children and without Legacy I hate to think what would have happened to us. Legacy supported us in many ways especially financially when it came to medical bills and education. In fact when I was 15 I had my front tooth knocked out and Legacy paid to have it replaced. Years later I went on to win Miss World 1972 in London. Thank you Legacy! I can’t imagine what would have happened to our family without your support. Thank you and again thank you! ”

**Belinda Green**  
Former Miss World and Legacy kid



“ There’s no way I could have reached the position I have without Legacy’s support. They’ve helped my family, helped with my education, I couldn’t have done what I have done without Legacy’s help. ”

**Brad Scott**  
North Melbourne AFL coach and Legacy kid



### Advocacy

Legacy continues to

- Lobby Government on behalf of our widows and dependants to ensure that their needs are considered in policy and budget decisions
- Provide high quality advocates to assist widows making claims for benefits and to represent widows at appeals tribunals
- Represent our beneficiaries in Government consultation with ex-service organisations



### Fundraising

- Legacy is a not for profit organisation. We receive limited Commonwealth Government funding for our welfare and charitable activities. All Legatees are volunteers and the funds we raise are used to assist widows and provide services for families
- Legacy has an ongoing need to canvas support from the wider community for the work that we do. Badge Week is usually the first week in September and we advertise widely to raise awareness of our work and have a highly visible presence in cities and towns selling the Legacy Badge for people to wear with pride, hopefully raising the funds we need to continue our good work
- The support we receive from our corporate partners and the Australian Defence Force is invaluable in this effort



Television presenter  
Melissa Doyle on  
Badge Day



### Governance and Compliance

- Legacy has policies and procedures to ensure the organisation remains compliant with relevant State and Commonwealth regulatory, compliance and tax regulations and corporations law requirements
- We have developed transparent financial management policies and procedures, including:
  - Fundraising
  - Funds distribution
  - Statutory reporting
- Legacy takes our obligation for the safety and wellbeing of our beneficiaries and clients seriously. We have client protection policies and procedures and our Clubs are actively managing the obligation to have Police Checks and Working with Children/Vulnerable People checks in accordance with relevant State and Territory Laws.



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## How you can help

For details go to [www.legacy.com.au](http://www.legacy.com.au)

To donate call: 1800 LEGACY (534 229) or go to [www.legacy.com.au/Donate](http://www.legacy.com.au/Donate)

To volunteer call or go to [www.legacy.com.au/GetInvolved](http://www.legacy.com.au/GetInvolved)