



MEDIA RELEASE

15 April 2020

Victoria Cross Recipient Backs Veterans' Anzac Day Fundraising Move Online in COVID-19 Lockdown

Most veteran charities that rely on Anzac Day fundraising to support their work for veterans in our communities can now be found online as the COVID-19 restrictions put a hold on traditional street fundraising.

Australia's oldest Victoria Cross recipient and veterans' advocate, Keith Payne VC, is supporting a new DiggersTribute.com.au website specifically created to link people with veteran charities and to promote COVID-19 compliant Anzac Day events. It also lets people get traditional Anzac Day and veteran supporter products online.

"We're all stuck at home so it's a perfect time to go online and do something that reflects the spirit of Anzac Day – remembering and honouring those who serve and helping others."

Not having our charities fundraising outside local shops is just part of the disruptions Australians face this Anzac Day. For the first time in more than 100 years Dawn Services are closed to the public and Anzac Day marches in our cities and towns are cancelled.

Mr Payne says the shutdown is a blow to all, but believes it will be especially hard for our veterans.

"Basically every community tradition associated with Anzac Day is on hold because of this virus," he said. "Veterans, especially our older veterans, will miss the comradery, the old mates we see rarely, and the chance to share this special day with family, friends and the people of Australia."

"And for our charities, which are run for the most by older veterans and volunteers, we'll also miss the few weeks of fundraising before Anzac Day that we rely on to fund our support for local veterans and families through the year."

"This is a time of year people are used to seeing older veterans out on the streets with their badges and military collectables to raise funds to help veterans in the community," he said. "With Diggers Tribute people can still get these products, or they can donate to their favourite charity, or they can simply leave a message of support."

People should go online at www.diggerstribute.com.au to help veteran charities and share messages of support. They can also find out how they can commemorate Anzac Day as a community that stands apart, but which stands united in spirit.

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Please contact Lawrence if you want to arrange an interview with veteran representatives or charities.

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As we stand apart let's stand together for our veterans