



13 May 2021

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Secretary,

A Submission Pertaining to the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021

This submission by Legacy Brisbane addresses the proposed membership of the council as broadly addressed in Clauses 13 and 14 of the Bill.

Legacy Brisbane notes that, of the 8 members of the Council, only two are likely to be veterans. For an organisation that aims to be able to advise the Minister about veterans' matters this seems to be inadequate. Under Clause 13 (3), while it is possible that some of the other 4 appointed members may be veterans or have Australian Defence Force experience, there is no guarantee of that being the case.

Legacy Brisbane believes that Council membership should include at least four veterans. While these could be recommended by veterans' organisations the option should be open for them to be appointed on their own merits as not all veterans are members of veterans' organisations.

An invitation to a veterans' organisation to provide recommendations for the Minister's consideration should only be issued after very careful consideration. There is a plethora of veterans' organisations many of which have very narrow agendas and may well use a position on the Council to endeavour to advance those agendas rather than the prime purposes of the council.

Inviting well founded, long-standing, reputable and well governed organisations would provide some safeguards. The Presidents of RSL Queensland and Legacy would be very appropriate and would follow the precedent set by the Anzac Day Act 1995 and maintain the long-standing linkages established under that Act.

Legacy Brisbane would also recommend the other two veteran positions be a young veteran and a female veteran. These additional appointments ensure contemporary veteran issues and a more diverse veteran group to advise the Minister on Veteran and family issues in Queensland.

The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited

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The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited


As noted above, nominations from veterans' organisations should not prevent the appointment on their merits of suitable veterans who are not members of a veterans' organisation.

Legacy Brisbane notes that, under Clause 34 (1), there is no obligation for the Minister to establish a Veterans' Reference Group. Therefore, it is possible that, depending on the Minister of the day, a Reference Group may not be established. This would deprive the Council of an important source of advice and information.

Legacy Brisbane proposes that Clause 34 (1) be changed to read 'The Minister will establish....'

Legacy Brisbane hopes that the above will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Cox
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Legacy Brisbane