

Inquiry - Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme

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Submitted by: Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses
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26th March 2025

Re: Commission of Enquiry into improving Queensland's Container Refund system.

As Secretary of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses (CMFN) I wish to submit this letter to support the proposal to raise the drink bottle and can refund system from 10 cents to 20 cents. The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses (CMFN) is a registered charity with the ACNC as a small charity with the ABN 68670493663

The History of the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur and the Memorial Fund for Nurses.

AHS Centaur was sunk by a Japanese torpedo on May 14th 1943 as it was steaming a course 24 miles E.N.E. off Point Lookout, Stradbroke Island, on its way to New Guinea to give aid to injured service personnel. At 0415 hrs it was struck by a torpedo fired from a Japanese submarine and sank within minutes of the attack, with heavy loss of life. Of Centaur's compliment of 332, only 30 of the crew and 34 army medical staff survived.

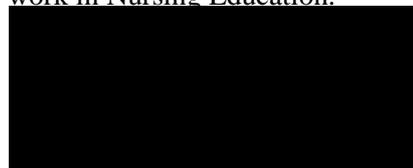
Among the survivors was just one of the serving nurses, Sister Ellen Savage. When attacked, *AHS Centaur* was unarmed and clearly marked with the Red Cross insignia in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Her existence had been communicated to Japan on the 5th June. The Prime Minister of Australia at the time could see no reason that Japan would not be aware of her.

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses is dedicated to preserving and maintaining a living Memorial Scholarship in honour and remembrance of nurses who served in the Australian Defence Forces at home and abroad. The CMFN also honours the memory of the 268 personnel who died in the sinking of the 2/3 *AHS Centaur* on 14th May 1943. Eleven of these deceased were members of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

The Management Committee of the CMFN holds fund raising activities each year including gathering Containers for Change to support The Centaur Higher Degree Research Scholarship of a maximum of \$10,000 This scholarship is dedicated to the promotion and continuing development of knowledge and scholarship in the nursing and midwifery professions. It is awarded annually to a Queensland nurse or midwife who is undertaking a Professional Doctorate or a Doctor of Philosophy in nursing or midwifery or a related discipline.

Increasing the refund for containers to 20 cents would be an extremely supportive of our fund-raising activities and our committee fully supports the enquiry and hopes for a positive outcome.

The sinking of the *AHS Centaur* is a significant event in Australia's war history and this increase in funds would support CMFN's mission to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and to ensure continuation of our valuable work in Nursing Education.



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