

# **Bravery Trust**

## **Lunch and Fundraising Auction**

**Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC  
Governor of Western Australia**

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I will talk about the Bravery Trust but before I do I want to make a couple of points about the broader situation to which you and they contribute. This is not just about honouring those who served and are now in need. This is about defending the country.

We are among the very few nations that decide to defend themselves. Most rely on the kindness of neighbours. We believe good fences create good neighbours. But this task is getting harder and harder. The distribution of power is moving against us. When I did the 1987 White Paper, Australia's economy was greater than the ASEAN States combined in GDP terms. We were at 70 per cent of China's. Now, Indonesia alone will pass us soon. To compare us to China would be laughable.

We need people to join. They will do so for patriotic reasons. However if they for one moment think they cannot be sustained in the event of injury, mental or physical, or their family is in trouble, they will not be encouraged.

So your participation here is not about charitable honour, though it is that. It is about defending the nation. You need to think with the seriousness of that task before you, and as you, contribute.

Serving your country is more than just wearing a uniform – it's a personal sacrifice for the men and women who joined the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to protect our country and contribute to the freedom and security we enjoy here in Australia.

Whether on Australian soil, international operations or peace keeping, a career in the ADF can be a richly rewarding experience for many.

Between 5,500 and 6,000 veterans transition each year into civilian life. Most transition successfully, however a small minority who've suffered injuries or illness as a result of their service experience can fall on hard times.

Sustained high levels of Defence activity over the past two decades, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, have impacted our veterans' physical and mental health, and wellbeing.

Unemployment, relationship breakdown, homelessness and tragically, veteran suicide, are all on the increase as some veterans struggle with the challenges of life outside the Defence Force.

Bravery Trust was created by Veterans in 2012 to provide urgent financial assistance to veterans and their families in their time of need.

Bravery Trust doesn't compete with any other military charity but rather works with all groups to achieve a better outcome for those who need it.

It operates right across Australia and is not a membership or club-based organisation.

The Trust helps current and former members of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force, and their families; who have suffered an injury or illness as a result of their service and are facing financial hardship.

Bravery Trust focuses on three things.

1. Urgent Financial Assistance for things such as rent; utility bills; school books and other basic necessities, including, sadly, funeral costs.  
This includes food vouchers and fuel vouchers.
2. Financial guidance to assist with managing household budgets.
3. A \$5 million education fund, which is used to provide education and training scholarships to give people a fresh start in life.

Since 2012, Bravery Trust has assisted more than 3,670 Australian Veterans and their families; provided more than \$3.41 million, around \$1 million in the last financial year alone and the demand is increasing.

I commend the Bravery Trust and all who support the Trust with donations and who volunteer their time to help injured service men and women access the right tools to help create a new future for themselves, so they may lead productive and happy lives in our communities.