

Legacy WA

Annual Christmas Jingle

Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Monday, 2nd December 2019

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

It is a pleasure to join you all today as Patron of Legacy WA for your annual Christmas Luncheon!

I was pleased to meet many of you at your 90th Anniversary Gala Dinner in June last year.

Legacy was established by our diggers returning from the trenches of WWI – they pledged to look after the families of their fallen comrades.

The vision of our first Diggers lives on in the members of Legacy today. And the relevance of Legacy today is strong.

Nationally, Legacy supports over 52,000 widows and widowers and over 1800 children and people with a disability.

In Perth and Fremantle, Legacy currently have more than 6,000 widows and widowers registered, as well as 80 children, students and disabled dependants.

With current enrolments averaging 10 every week, the work of Legacy is by no means finished, and will continue for many decades to come.

Looking back - this year marked anniversaries of the Battle of Binh Ba (50 years), a noted event in the history of our engagement with Vietnam, and the 20th of our commitment to leadership of INTERFET in Timor-Leste. That was for humanitarian and security purposes.

Next year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. That war saw the legend envelope us all – men, women, indigenous, immigrant, alike.

As we arrive at the contemporary era we recognise that the chain of commitment since World War II runs through Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, and beyond.

And as we speak, Western Australians are providing a large percentage of those serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and further afield. At sea, patrols of naval ships in the northern Indian Ocean have for the best part of 30 years been drawn from HMAS Stirling.

All of you here today represent the vital part that families play in the service of our military folk – those of us prepared to make a career of the profession of arms.

The comradeship and companionship found amongst the family members is what gives support to the work undertaken by the men and women of the Defence Forces and this cannot be underestimated as a force multiplier.

The success of service men and women is largely due to the encouragement and support offered by their families and the support offered by the community to those families in times of need.

It is befitting that as a community we ensure those who serve us are supported, and ensure they know that we value and honour them. This is where Legacy comes in.

I was pleased to hear that fundraising for this year's Legacy Week went well – a long standing appeal that raises vital awareness and funds for the families of our incapacitated and deceased Veterans. I was also delighted to meet volunteers outside Government House for a chat on collection day in the city, and to see the enthusiastic support of our young people in promoting the appeal.

I congratulate and thank all volunteers, donors and staff for standing by the families of our serving men and women.

And as family members, I thank you for the sacrifices you have made and the courage you have shown.

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season, and a fun filled afternoon today!