

VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDENS

Eastern Park Complex Geelong

Geelong 21st Century and Adjoining Parkland



Totally Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans Garden
Mothers and Family Garden
Tranquillity Garden

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposal for the Establishment, Maintenance, and Development of a National Memorial Gardens Complex for Veterans and Families underscores the importance of recognising and honouring Total Permanent Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans and their families. This memorial complex serves as a symbol of respect, remembrance, and honour for those who have sacrificed for their country. It acknowledges not only the physical scars but also the enduring emotional and psychological toll that war inflicts on individuals and their loved ones.

The memorial complex provides a dedicated space for reflection and healing, acknowledging the resilience and sacrifices of those who served while offering comfort and support to those living with the ongoing effects of their service. It emphasizes the crucial role of family members in the rehabilitation and well-being of disabled Veterans, recognising and appreciating their contributions.

Moreover, in light of the concerning statistic that more than 1,600 Veterans have committed suicide in the last two decades, the memorial complex stands as a tangible symbol of gratitude and support from the broader community. It aims to combat the message of neglect and indifference conveyed to Veterans by fostering unity, solidarity, and hope for the future.

By creating this memorial complex, we ensure that the stories of Veterans and their families are remembered, their sacrifices honoured, and their legacy preserved for generations to come. It serves as a beacon of remembrance, healing, and unity, reaffirming our commitment to supporting those who have served and their loved ones.

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe"

Anatole France

INTRODUCTION

In conceptualising the Memorial Garden Complex, we embark on a journey of profound significance. At its heart lies a tribute to the valour and resilience of disabled Veterans, alongside the enduring support of their families. Through this project, we honour not only their service but also recognise the lasting impact of conflict on individuals and communities alike.

The inclusion of three distinct gardens— the TPI Garden, the Mothers/Family Garden, and the Tranquillity Garden—each representing different aspects of the Veteran experience, creates a multifaceted narrative that allows visitors to engage with the stories on multiple levels. Starting with the pre-embarkation scenario, the gardens effectively capture the anticipation and bravery of those heading off to conflict zones, as well as the apprehension and concern of their loved ones left behind.

By incorporating elements that symbolise the harsh realities of war, such as the challenges faced by Veterans and their families both during and after conflict, the Memorial Garden Complex serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served. It's especially powerful that the narrative extends beyond specific conflicts and periods, encompassing the entirety of Australia's military history from Federation to the present and into the future.

The sheer numbers of Veterans, currently serving personnel and other individuals affected by war underscore the importance of such a memorial. It's not only about honouring the past but also recognising the ongoing impact of war on our society. In the years 2000 to 2020, there have been more than 1,600 Veterans who have committed suicide. By ensuring that the imagery within the gardens is self-explanatory, the project seeks to make the experience accessible to all visitors, regardless of their background.

Central to our vision is accessibility. Through intuitive imagery and thoughtful design, we strive to ensure that every visitor, regardless of background or familiarity with military history, can engage with and find solace in these sacred spaces.

Overall, the Memorial Garden Complex promises to be a place of reflection, remembrance, and appreciation for the sacrifices made by Australia's Veterans and their families. It is a testament to their courage and resilience, and a fitting tribute to their service to the nation.

“How much poorer are we as a nation for the loss of all of their love for this country, their hopes and their energy? Every family guards the record of their loved ones. The ones who were lost, the ones who returned home, the ones who brought the war home with them.”

The Hon Anthony Albanese Prime Ministers address at the dawn service Canberra 2023

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Within the landscape of military memorials, a conspicuous absence persists—a void where recognition for Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) individuals should reside. While existing memorials honour various aspects of military service, from specific theatres of conflict to the fallen heroes, the profound sacrifices and ongoing challenges of those who survived with life-altering injuries remain overlooked.

This gap in commemoration fails to recognise the enduring struggles faced by TPI individuals and their families. It overlooks the lifelong burden of disability resulting from their service and the immense sacrifices made by these individuals in the line of duty. Without a dedicated memorial, there is a risk that their experiences and contributions may be forgotten or marginalised within the broader narrative of military service.

Furthermore, the absence of a memorial for TPI individuals can contribute to feelings of isolation and invisibility among this population. Without a public symbol of recognition and appreciation, TPI Veterans and their families may struggle to find validation and support for their experiences and needs.

Addressing this problem requires the creation of a dedicated memorial that honours the sacrifices and resilience of TPI individuals and their families. Such a memorial would serve as a powerful symbol of gratitude and remembrance, ensuring that their contributions to their country are acknowledged and remembered for generations to come.

“When you do the things in the present that you can see, you are shaping the future that you are yet to see.”

Idowu Koyenikan,

ADDRESSING PROBLEM

A profound gap exists in the recognition and support for Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans and their families. The creation of a memorial complex dedicated to honouring their sacrifices and ongoing challenges stands as a commendable:

1. **Recognition of Lifelong Disabilities:**

The TPI Memorial Garden acknowledges the permanent disabilities suffered by veterans as a result of their service, ensuring their sacrifices are not forgotten.

2. **National Recognition:**

By establishing the memorial as a national landmark, it provides a centralised location for honouring TPI Veterans across Australia.

3. **Inclusion of Families:**

The Family/Mothers Memorial Garden recognises the profound impact on the families of TPI Veterans, acknowledging their shared sacrifice and suffering.

4. **Community Appreciation:**

Creating a dedicated space demonstrates the community's appreciation for the sacrifices made by TPI Veterans and their families.

5. **Supportive Environment:**

The memorial complex provides a place where individuals and families can gather for solace and support during difficult times, fostering a sense of belonging and community.

6. **Reflection and Peace:**

The Tranquillity Memorial Garden offers a serene environment for Veterans and their families to reflect and find solace, providing a physical space for quiet contemplation and healing.

Overall, the proposed memorial complex not only acknowledges the sacrifices of TPI Veterans and their families but also provides a tangible symbol of gratitude and support from the broader community. It serves as a place of remembrance, reflection, and healing for those affected by the lifelong impacts of military service.

“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye”

Antoine de Saint Exupery

Community Involvement

Involving the community in the establishment, maintenance, and development of the National Memorial Gardens Complex for Veterans and Families is crucial for its success and sustainability.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

- Launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign to inform the community about the memorial complex project, its significance, and the need for community involvement.
- Utilise various media channels such as social media, local newspapers, radio, and television to reach a wide audience.

Community Consultations and Input:

- Host meetings, focus groups, or community forums to gather input and feedback from community members regarding the design, features, and programming of the memorial complex.
- Incorporate community suggestions and preferences into the planning process to ensure the memorial reflects the values and aspirations of not just the Veteran community but the broader community.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Offer volunteer opportunities for community members to participate in various aspects of the memorial's establishment and maintenance, such as landscaping, gardening, maintenance work, or organising events.
- Establish volunteer committees or groups dedicated to specific tasks, such as fundraising, outreach, or event planning.

Fundraising Events and Campaigns:

- Organise fundraising events and campaigns to garner financial support from the community for the construction, maintenance, and ongoing development of the memorial complex.
- Host events such as benefit concerts, charity auctions, community fairs, or marathons to engage community members and raise funds.

Educational Programs and Outreach:

- Develop educational programs and outreach initiatives aimed at schools, universities, and community organisations to raise awareness about the contributions and sacrifices of Veterans and their families.
- Once established offer guided tours, workshops, or educational seminars at the memorial complex to educate visitors about its significance and the stories behind its features.

Community Partnerships:

- Forge partnerships with local businesses, organisations, and institutions to garner support and resources for the memorial complex.
- Collaborate with community groups, such as other Veterans organisations, service clubs, faith-based organisations, and youth groups, to amplify outreach efforts and foster community engagement.

By actively involving the community in the planning, development, and ongoing activities of the memorial complex, we not only ensure broad support and ownership but also create a meaningful space that truly reflects the values and aspirations of the community it serves.

OBJECTIVES

"The aim of establishing a memorial park is to finally acknowledge and honour both Veterans and their families, who bear the enduring scars of conflict throughout their lives.

Objective 1: Awareness

Create awareness of TPI Veterans:

Develop comprehensive educational materials, organise engaging events, and implement targeted outreach programs to enlighten the public about the challenges faced by TPI Veterans and the imperative of supporting them.

Highlight the contribution of families:

Share poignant stories, curate impactful events, and launch compelling media campaigns to underscore the indispensable role families play in the lives of Veterans and the pervasive impact of their service on the entire family unit.

Objective 2: Location

Identify a suitable location:

Consider locations that are accessible, serene, and conducive to reflection.

Provide a place for reflection:

Designate areas within the memorial park specifically for quiet contemplation, meditation, and remembrance. This could include landscaped gardens, tranquil water features, as well as secluded seating areas.

Objective 3: Recognition

Honouring TPI Veterans:

Install enduring tributes such as statues, plaques, or monuments that dignify the service and sacrifices of TPI Veterans. Consider integrating personal narratives, poignant quotes, or heartfelt testimonials to personalise the commemorative experience..

Acknowledging family sacrifices:

Incorporate elements into the memorial that recognise the enduring support and sacrifices made by mothers, partners, children and other family members of service personnel. This could involve symbolic art installations, dedicatory plaques, or themed gardens.

Objective 4: Education

Create a visitor experience:

Develop guided tours, interactive exhibits, or multimedia displays that provide visitors with insights into the experiences of TPI Veterans and their families. Offer educational programs, workshops, or lectures on topics related to Veterans' issues, rehabilitation, and resilience.

Stimulate creative energy:

Encourage artistic expression and creativity through public art installations, community workshops, or collaborative projects. Invite local artists, historians, and educators to contribute to the design and interpretation of the memorial park.

By steadfastly pursuing these objectives, the memorial park will transcend mere physicality, emerging as a poignant testament to TPI Veterans and their families. It will serve as a beacon of awareness, recognition, and education within the broader community, ensuring that their sacrifices are revered and remembered for generations to come.

OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE FOR A MEMORIAL PARK

The proposed location and rationale for a National Memorial Park is a significant endeavour, aiming to honour the sacrifices of Australian servicemen and women while also providing solace and reflection for the broader community. Below is a breakdown of the proposed features and their rationale:

Location:

- The National Memorial Park is envisioned as a refuge for the community to pay homage to the sacrifices of those who served Australia, as well as their families.
- The location should be solemn and peaceful, offering a powerful reminder of the human cost of war and serving as a place of beauty and reflection.

Memorial Gardens:

- The Memorial Gardens would consist of three distinct parts, each serving a specific purpose.
- The Memorial Drive leading to "Veterans Memorial Way" would feature "Digi Glass" panels displaying various types of service, from peacekeeping to conflict, and showcasing military advancements throughout history.
- These panels would highlight the diversity and magnitude of service, as well as the humanity and futility of conflict, fostering respect, understanding and wonder for those who served.
- The "Veterans Memorial Walk" would lead to the Tranquillity Garden and billabong, providing a peaceful space for rest and reflection.

Rationale:

- The Memorial Park Complex is not dedicated to any specific theatre of conflict but serves as a refuge for honouring all Australian servicemen and women, as well as their families.
- The design elements aim to reflect the vulnerability and frailty of mankind while also emphasising the respect and understanding owed to those who have served the nation.
- The inclusion of the Tranquillity Pavilion and billabong provides visitors with a place of peace and contemplation, allowing them to reflect on the sacrifices and contributions of Veterans in a serene environment.

Overall, the proposed Memorial Park seeks to create a space that is both reverent and tranquil, honouring the sacrifices of Australian servicemen and women while providing a place of solace and reflection for the community at large.

“Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.” –

Sydney J. Harris

DIRECT BENEFITS

Creating a memorial gardens complex for TPI-Disabled Veterans, Mothers/Family, and a Tranquillity Garden offers several direct benefits:

Recognition and Honour:

The memorial complex provides a tangible expression of recognition and honour for Veterans and their families, dignifying their sacrifices and invaluable contributions to their country.

Validation of Experience:

By dedicating a space specifically for TPI Veterans and their families, the memorial complex validates their experiences and challenges, affirming the significance of their service and the impact of their sacrifices.

Community Support:

The memorial complex demonstrates community support and appreciation for Veterans and their families, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among those affected by the lifelong impacts of military service.

Healing and Reflection:

The Tranquillity Garden offers a serene environment for veterans and their families to find solace, reflect on their experiences and seek emotional healing. It provides a peaceful sanctuary where they can process their feelings and find comfort in nature.

Education and Awareness:

The memorial complex serves as an educational resource, raising awareness about the experiences of TPI Veterans and the challenges they face. It helps to preserve their stories and ensure that future generations understand the sacrifices made by those who served their country.

Community Gathering Space:

The memorial complex becomes a gathering place for Veterans, families, and the broader community to come together, commemorate the past, and support one another in times of need. It fosters connections and strengthens community bonds.

Overall, the creation of a Memorial Gardens Complex offers a range of direct benefits that honour, support and empower disabled Veterans and their families, while also enriching the broader community.

“In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety.” —

Abraham Maslow

INDIRECT BENEFITS

The indirect benefits of having a TPI Veterans Memorial Gardens Complex are numerous and far-reaching, extending beyond the immediate scope of honouring disabled Veterans and their families. Some of these indirect benefits include:

Community Cohesion:

The presence of the memorial complex fosters a sense of unity and cohesion within the community by providing a shared space for reflection and remembrance. It strengthens social bonds and promotes a sense of belonging among residents.

Educational Opportunities:

The memorial complex serves as an educational resource, offering opportunities for visitors to learn about the history and impact of military service, as well as the experiences of disabled veterans and their families. It provides a platform for storytelling, dialogue and understanding across generations.

Cultural Enrichment:

The memorial complex enriches the cultural landscape of the region by promoting awareness and appreciation of the sacrifices made by Veterans. It contributes to the preservation of collective memory and heritage, ensuring that the stories of disabled veterans are not forgotten.

Health and Well-being:

The Tranquillity Garden within the complex offers a therapeutic environment for visitors, promoting relaxation, stress reduction and mental well-being. It provides a sanctuary for individuals and families to find solace and peace amidst the challenges of daily life.

Economic Development:

The presence of the memorial complex can have positive economic effects on the surrounding area, attracting visitors, generating tourism revenue, and supporting local businesses. It contributes to the overall vitality and attractiveness of the region as a destination for residents and visitors alike.

Increased Civic Pride:

The establishment of a TPI Veterans Memorial Gardens complex instils a sense of pride and identity within the community, as residents take pride in honouring and supporting those who have served their country. It reinforces the values of gratitude, compassion and resilience that are central to the community's identity.

Overall, the indirect benefits of having a TPI Veterans Memorial Gardens complex extend beyond its primary purpose of honouring disabled Veterans and their families, enriching the community in diverse and meaningful ways.

COSTS

Considering the direct costs associated with each garden, as well as the potential intangible and indirect costs of not taking action, is crucial for planning and decision-making.

Direct Costs:

- **TPI Memorial Garden:**
 - Artworks: Cost to commission and install artwork that tells the story of Australia's involvement in conflicts worldwide.
 - Landscape: Expenses related to landscaping the garden to create a visually appealing and accessible space.
- **Family/Mothers Memorial Garden:**
 - Artworks: Budget for creating a life-size monument depicting maternal care and concern, as well as any additional artistic elements.
 - Landscape: Costs associated with landscaping to enhance the aesthetic appeal and accessibility of the garden.
- **Tranquillity Memorial Garden:**
 - Plaque: Cost of producing and installing a plaque that identifies the purpose of the garden. The design, development and installation of the “Digi-Glass” panels
 - Landscape: Expenses related to landscaping, including the installation of benches for visitors to sit and reflect.

Intangible/Indirect Costs of Doing Nothing:

- Increase in family dysfunction: Potential strain on families due to unresolved trauma and lack of support.
- Ever-increasing reliance on support services for Veterans: Greater demand on healthcare and social services to address the needs of Veterans and their families.
- Increase in self-harm/suicide: Risk of mental health challenges, including higher rates of self-harm among Veterans.
- Increase in social isolation: Potential for Veterans and their families to experience social isolation and disconnection from their communities.

While the direct costs can be quantified to some extent, the intangible and indirect costs highlight the broader impact of not addressing the needs of Veterans and their families. Investing in Memorial Gardens not only provides tangible benefits in terms of commemoration and reflection but also helps mitigate these broader societal costs by fostering a sense of belonging, support, and understanding.

STAGES

Developing a Memorial Gardens Complex for TPI Veterans, Mothers/Families, and Tranquillity Gardens is a significant undertaking that requires careful planning and execution. Here are the stages for the development of such a complex undertaking:

1. Conceptualisation and Planning:

- Define the vision and objectives of the Memorial Gardens Complex, considering the needs and desires of TPI Veterans, mothers/families, and the community.
- Conduct research on similar projects for inspiration and best practices.
- Form a steering committee or task force comprising stakeholders, including Veterans, families, government representatives, and community leaders.
- Identify potential locations for the complex, considering factors such as accessibility, visibility, and suitability for the intended purpose.

2. Feasibility Assessment:

- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability of the project, including financial, logistical, and regulatory considerations.
- Determine the estimated budget for the project and explore funding sources, such as government grants, private donations, and corporate sponsorships.
- Engage with relevant authorities and stakeholders to secure necessary permits and approvals for the development.

3. Design Development:

- Hire an experienced landscape architect or design team to develop conceptual plans for the Memorial Gardens Complex.
- Collaborate closely with stakeholders to ensure that the design reflects their input and addresses their needs.
- Consider incorporating elements such as walking paths, seating areas, memorial structures, landscaping, and water features to create a serene and contemplative environment.

4. Accessibility

- Ensure that the Memorial Gardens Complex is accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. This might involve providing wheelchair ramps, tactile paving, and other accessibility features to ensure inclusivity

5. Sustainability

- Consider incorporating sustainable practices into the design and maintenance of the gardens, such as water-efficient landscaping, renewable energy sources, and eco-friendly materials. This not only reduces environmental impact but also aligns with broader community values.

6. Collaboration and Partnerships

- Highlight any collaborations or partnerships with government agencies, community organisations, or corporate sponsors that have supported or contributed to the project. This showcases community engagement and shared responsibility in honouring Veterans.
- Launch a fundraising campaign to secure financial support for the project, leveraging various channels such as crowdfunding, events, sponsorships, and grants.

- Cultivate relationships with potential donors and sponsors, including individuals, businesses, foundations, and government agencies.
- Explore opportunities for in-kind donations, volunteer contributions, and community partnerships to supplement financial resources.

7. Long-term Maintenance and Preservation:

- Outline strategies for the long-term maintenance and preservation of the gardens, ensuring that they remain a cherished community asset for generations to come. This might involve establishing an endowment fund or partnering with local organisations for ongoing support.

8. Construction and Implementation:

- Select qualified contractors and suppliers through a competitive bidding process to carry out the construction work.
- Develop a detailed project schedule and timeline, ensuring that construction activities are completed efficiently and within budget.
- Monitor progress closely and address any issues or challenges that arise during the construction phase.
- Coordinate with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, utility providers, and community groups, to minimize disruptions and ensure compliance with regulations.

9. Grand Opening and Dedication:

- Plan and organise a grand opening ceremony to officially unveil the Memorial Gardens Complex to the public.
- Invite key stakeholders, dignitaries, Veterans, families, and community members to attend the dedication ceremony.
- Arrange for special events, performances, and presentations to commemorate the occasion and honour the contributions of TPI Veterans and their families.
- Provide guided tours and educational programs to engage visitors and deepen their understanding of the significance of the memorial complex.

10. Maintenance and Sustainability:

- Establish a comprehensive maintenance plan to ensure the long-term upkeep and preservation of the Memorial Gardens Complex.
- Recruit and train staff or volunteers to perform regular maintenance tasks, such as landscaping, cleaning, and repairs.
- Implement sustainable practices to minimise environmental impact and conserve resources, such as water-efficient landscaping and energy-efficient lighting.
- Engage with the community to encourage ongoing involvement and support for the memorial complex, fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship among residents and visitors alike.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” —

11. James Baldwin

CONCLUSION

The proposal for the establishment of a National Memorial Gardens Complex for Veterans and Families underscores the need to acknowledge and honour the sacrifices of those who have served our country. For too long, the true cost of conflict has been overlooked, leaving Veterans and their families to bear the weight of its pain and suffering alone. It is time to rectify this oversight and provide our Veterans with the profound recognition they deserve.

The impact of war lingers, shaping the lives of Veterans and their families for generations. Despite this enduring legacy, Australia lacks a dedicated memorial for surviving disabled Veterans. The envisioned Memorial Park Complex transcends the traditional notion of a one-day event, becoming a destination of solace and contemplation—a living tribute inviting all Australians to reflect on our collective history and the price of conflict.

By embracing this vision, we not only honour the service and sacrifice of our Veterans but also reaffirm our commitment to building a more compassionate and inclusive society. The Memorial Gardens Complex represents an opportunity to create a space that embodies our national values—a space where the past is remembered, the present is appreciated, and the future is shaped by the lessons of our shared history.

In creating this memorial complex, we pay homage to our Veterans, recognise the enduring impact of war, and foster a deeper understanding of our shared heritage of service to the community. It is a testament to the resilience and sacrifice of our Veterans, and it stands as a symbol of our collective commitment to honouring their legacy for generations to come.

***“We don’t know them all,
But we owe them all”***

Unknown

Attachments

The attachments would contain some drawings of potential artwork as well as project costs for all elements of construction.

Attachment 1	Design Elements
Attachment 2	List of Wars and conflicts that the ADF have been involved in
Attachment 3	Statistics relating to the Veteran Community
Attachment 4	Map of proposed Memorial Gardens
Attachment 5	Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk Bench - Seymou

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ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Design Elements

Designing the TPI Veterans Memorial Garden, the Mothers/Family Garden, and the Tranquillity Garden requires careful consideration to create spaces that are not only visually striking but also deeply meaningful and engaging. Here are some design elements and concepts for each:

TPI Veterans Memorial Garden:

- Incorporate artwork that tells the story of Australia's involvement in conflicts around the world, challenging and engaging visitors with historical narratives.
- Ensure flexibility for future inclusions of global conflicts, allowing the memorial to evolve over time.
- Sculptures should depict the diversity of veterans, including those with visible disabilities such as missing limbs, while maintaining a positive and uplifting tone.
- Consider using glass panels (Digi-Glass) with layers depicting images of conflict and involvement, creating a dynamic and immersive experience. Water cascading over the panels can symbolise the changing nature of war and its impact on individuals.

Mothers/Family Garden:

- Create a life-size monument depicting a woman reaching out with concern, conveying the emotional weight and support provided by mothers and families of veterans.
- Opt for a traditional classical sculpture style to evoke a timeless and universal sense of maternal care and compassion.
- Use figurines to represent the familial bond and the sacrifices made by mothers and families of veterans.
- Consider a composition that portrays a lone figure of an adult, followed by a gap, then two children, with an adult woman reaching out to a lost child, symbolising the enduring love and loss experienced by families.

Tranquillity Garden:

- Keep the design simple and serene, with minimalistic elements that promote quiet reflection.
- Install bench-style seating (see attachment 5) to encourage visitors to sit and contemplate in a peaceful environment.
- Include a small plaque identifying the purpose of the garden, fostering a sense of tranquillity and contemplation.

Incorporating these design elements will not only create visually stunning spaces but also ensure that each garden serves as a powerful tribute to Veterans and their families, inviting visitors to reflect on the profound impact of war and the importance of remembrance and support.

Tranquility Memorial Garden



Tranquillity Garden within the 21st Century Garden

The Tranquillity Garden will be a profound and meaningful tribute, integrating both reflection and historical context. The bench-style seating (see Attachment 5) offers a place for contemplation and quietude, allowing visitors to pause and reflect amidst the garden's serene ambiance..

This garden seeks to create a space that is both reverent and tranquil, honouring the sacrifices of Australian servicemen and women while providing a place of solace and reflection for the community at large.

Transitioning from the Tranquillity Garden to the Mother and Family Garden signifies a shift from reflection on service and sacrifice to the celebration of family and nurturing relationships. It creates a holistic experience that honours both the individuals who served and the support systems that sustained them. This seamless transition between spaces enhances the overall journey and ensures that visitors leave with a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of these themes.

Mothers and Family Memorial Garden



Mothers/Family Memorial Garden

The **Mothers/Family Memorial Garden** is designed to be a deeply moving and respectful space for reflection, contemplation, and solace, offering a place where visitors can honour the sacrifices made by mothers and families in service to their country. The garden is seamlessly integrated into the existing topography, forming two distinct terraces—the upper and lower levels—connected by the central **TPI Veterans Memorial**, creating a continuous flow between the Memorial Gardens.

The inclusion of benches around the monument invites visitors to sit, reflect, and remember, fostering a serene atmosphere for quiet meditation. This strategic placement creates a tangible connection between the **Mothers-Family Garden** and the **TPI Veterans Memorial Garden**, highlighting the shared experiences of service, sacrifice, and familial support.

The **Mothers/Family Memorial Garden** stands as a profound expression of national gratitude, recognising the loss and enduring strength of families who have borne the brunt of war's cost. This space encourages collective healing and community support, enabling the public to acknowledge the sacrifices made by these families.

A storyboard etched along the walls between the **TPI Veterans Memorial** and **Mothers/Family Gardens** offers a visual journey through Australia's involvement in conflicts, highlighting both the evolution of warfare and the technology used over time. The inclusion of inspirational words such as **SERVICE**, **HONOUR**, and **COURAGE** at the base of each panel adds emotional depth, reminding visitors of the values upheld by those who served and their families.

TPI Memorial Garden



TPI Memorial Gardens, Mothers/Family Memorial in the foreground

The **TPI Veterans Memorial Gardens** is thoughtfully designed to minimise the divide between those impacted by war and conflict and the broader public. The integration of the gardens into the natural landscape creates two terraces—the upper and lower levels—connected by the central **TPI Veterans Memorial**, underscoring the shared journey of sacrifice and resilience across different groups.

At the heart of the memorial is the **TPI Veterans Memorial Garden**, serving as a poignant focal point within the Memorial Gardens. Its central location symbolises the sacrifices of disabled veterans, providing a quiet space to reflect on their profound service and struggles. Its proximity to the **Mothers/Family Memorial Garden** strengthens the narrative of interconnectedness between the individual sacrifice of veterans and the families who supported them.

A circular wall structure, linking the **Mothers/Family** and **TPI Veterans Memorial Gardens**, will feature a storyboard that chronicles Australia's involvement in conflicts, wars, and peacekeeping missions worldwide. The inner circle of the structure will also showcase images related to the experiences of disabled veterans, including scenes of rehabilitation, resilience, and the support systems that aided their recovery. These images will serve as a testament to the journey of adaptation and the enduring strength of disabled veterans.

By positioning the **TPI Veterans Memorial Garden** as the central element of the Memorial Gardens, this site creates a meaningful and cohesive experience. It offers visitors the chance to reflect on the complexities of military service, the sacrifices made, and the lasting impact on individuals, families, and communities, providing a space of remembrance and deep respect for disabled veterans.

ATTACHMENT 2

Australian Defence Force Involvement in war

Boer War	1899 – 1902	593
World War I	1914 – 1919	61,678
World War II	1939 – 1945	39,657
Korean War	1950 - 1953	340
Vietnam War	1962 – 1973	523
Iraq First Gulf War	1990 – 1991	
Afghanistan War	2001 – 2014	47
Iraq Second Gulf War	2003 – 2009	4

Australian Defence Force Involvement in Conflicts

Boxer Rebellion	1900 – 1901	Arrived after battles concluded
Russian Civil War	1918 – 1920	As part of the British Forces
Armenian Azerbaijani Conflict	1916 – 1920	
Egyptian Revolution	1918 – 1919	
Malaita Punitive Expedition	1927	Solomon Islands (Malaita Island)
Papua New Guinea	1947 - 1975	
Middle East (UNTSO Op Paladin)	1948	
Berlin Airlift	1948 - 1950	
Malta	1952 - 1955	
Malayan Emergency	1959 – 1960	
Malaysia/Indonesia Confrontation	1962 - 1966	
Borneo Confrontation	1963 – 1966	Part of the Malaya-Indonesia
Civil War Afghanistan	1996 – 2001	Part of the International response
East Timor Liberation	1999 – 2000	Australia led
Sierra Leone Civil War	2000 – 2003	Small contingent – Training
Solomon Islands	2003 – 2016	
Syrian Civil War	2014 – 2017	
Malawi Crisis	2017	
Ukraine – Russia War	2022	Ongoing commitment & training in UK

Peacekeeping Operations

Theatre - Country	Start-End	Number of Visits
Afghanistan & Pakistan	1989 -1993	2, 1947, 1947 -1949
Bougainville	1998 - 2003	2, 1999 -1999, 1998 - 2003
Cambodia	1991 - 1993	2, 1991-1992,1992-1993
Congo	1960 - 1961	
Cyprus	1964 - 2017	
Dafur	2008 -2011	
Dutch East Indies – Indonesia	1947 - 1951	2, 1947, 1947 - 1949
East Timor	1999 - 2000	3, 1999,1999 – 2000,2000 - 2002
Ethiopia & Entrea	2001 – 2005	
Greece	1947 - 1951	
India – Pakistan	1965 – 1966	
Indonesia	1949 - 1951	
Iran – Iraq	1988 - 1990	
Israel, Syria	1974	
Kashmir	1948 - 1985	
Korea	1951 - 1973	2, 1951-1973, 1953 -
Middle East	1956	
Mozambique	1994	
Namibia	1989 - 1990	
Persian Gulf	1990 - 2001	
Rwanda	1994 - 1995	
Sierra Leone	2001 - 2003	
Sinai	1982 - 1986	2, 1982 1986, 1993
Solomon Islands	2000 - 2002	
Somalia	1992 – 1993	
South Sudan	2011	
Sudan	2005 – 2011	
Thai- Cambodia Border	1989 – 1993	
Timor Leste	2005 - 2012	3, 2005 - 06, 2006 -13, 2006-2012
Uganda	1982 – 1984	
West New Guinea	1962 – 1963	
Western Sahara – Minurso	1991 – 1994	
Yemen	1963 – 1964	
Yugoslavia (Former)	1992	
Zimbabwe	1979 – 1980	

About 15,000 Australians have taken part in more than 40 peacekeeping operations, helping to lessen the effects of around 35 different zones of conflict.

This may not be the definitive list of Conflicts that the Australian Defence Force has been involved in. We have identified literature that suggests that there are as many as 100 areas of conflict. However, these are the conflicts that we have been able to identify and authenticate.

There have been more Vietnam Veterans who have died as a result of self-harm than were killed in action.

Between the years 2000 and 2020, **1,600 Veterans have died as a result of self-harm**

ATTACHMENT 3

Statistics relating to the Veteran Community

As of the census of 2021 there are more than half a million Australians (581,139) who have served, or are currently serving, in the ADF. There are 84,865 current serving members and 496,276 former serving members. One in twenty (5.3 per cent) of Australian households reported at least one person who had served or is serving in the ADF

84,865	Serving members of the ADF
581,139	Veterans
76,000	TPI Veterans
34,000	War Widows
152	Orphans

As of the 23rd December 2023 there are 103,616 Gold Card holders

QLD	33,836	
NSW	27,901	
ACT	2,399	
VIC	17,538	(1,100 in Greater Geelong Area)
TAS	3,103	
SA	7,904	
WA	10,299	
NT	636	

ATTACHMENT 4



Eastern Park - Geelong

Map of Memorial Gardens Complex within the Eastern Park Geelong

- 1. Tranquility Memorial Garden,
- 2. The Mothers & Family Memorial Garden
- 3. The TPI Memorial Garden

ATTACHMENT 5



Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk Bench Seymour