



Honour the Fallen



Award a Killed-in-Service (KIS) clasp on their campaign or service medal to complete their story of personal service and sacrifice.



Photo Credit: RSL NSW

It's their Service and their Sacrifice!



Killed-In-Service Clasp



Australian Defence Force



Killed-In-Action Clasp



Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal
 Level 1, 5 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
 Locked Bag 7765, Canberra BC ACT 2610
 E-mail address: DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

RE: Submission to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

I am pleased to present the following submission regarding the Inquiry into recognition for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have been killed, wounded or injured in or as a result of service. I served 42 years in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the majority of that service with the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) and Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) from August 1976 to October 2018. For me, this submission is very personal. It began 25-years ago, following the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters during a training exercise in Townsville in 1996, which killed 18 soldiers, of which 15 were my SASR colleagues. Over the years, I and others have evolved this campaign to establish medallic recognition to honour **ALL ADF members** killed on *warlike, non-warlike operations and/or during general service*. Inclusively, recognition for those who are DVA ‘**accepted health conditions**’ cardholders and who have been wounded or injured on *warlike, non-warlike operations and/or during general service*.

<p><i>The Concept</i></p>	<p>Formalise already accepted service-related categories: Killed-In-Service (KIS), Killed-In-Action (KIA), Injured-In-Service (IIS), Wounded-In-Service (WIS) or Wounded-In-Action (WIA) onto a specific conditions medallic clasp that would adorn either the Australian Defence Medal, a campaign medal or another medal already in service, or one that may be introduced in future.</p>
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Corporate sponsorship has pledged support to cover the cost of medallic clasp recognition for those Killed-In-Service/Killed-In-Action. Other medallic category clasps can be produced at minimal cost.

Australia is a nation of storytelling and recognises the contributions of those who have excelled in sports, academia and community service, along with everyday citizens who risk their lives for others. The honours and awards tell the story of a person’s significant contribution to society. Defence families are honoured with a Remembrance Pin in acknowledgement of their sacrifices. ADF members, too, receive medals, citations, clasps and commendations to tell the story of distinguished service, where they served, and for how long. However, their story is incomplete because currently, their *service medals* do not reflect, record or conclude their sacrifices in service as shown on their military service record or on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll. Any symbolic gesture that is not directly linked to an ADF member’s service medals does not complete their service history. This significantly detracts from making the distinction that the ADF member made the *ultimate sacrifice* in service, or was wounded or injured in or as a result of their military service, either overseas or at home, on operations or in general service.

Myself and close to 50,000 petitioners present this submission to honour the fallen. We understand the Tribunal is not tasked to consider recognition for **First Responders Killed-In-Service**. Still, I would like to mention that this campaign has endeavoured to unify the State Premiers to recognise the *ultimate sacrifice*, in the death, of those brave individuals with an appropriate clasp worn on the National Emergency Medal. I offer you the following and look forward to providing more detail about this campaign should you require.

Warrant Officer Class 1 (Retd) Kerry Danes, CSM
 PO Box 391, Capalaba Qld Australia



Bipartisan Government support, the ADF serving and Veteran community and prominent Australians...

Detailed below are some of the names of individuals I would like to personally thank for their support to this campaign over the years, along with close to 50,000 others who have endorsed this campaign across two petitions. The most recent names and comments of those petitioners are provided from page 14.

Alan Ashmore (Veteran)
Alan Jones AO (Sky News Presenter)
Alistair Scott (Department of Defence)
Andrew Laming MP (LNP)
Barry Grant OAM JP (Immediate Past President Australian Commando Association (NSW))
Ben Doyle Cox (CEO/Director at Platypus Outdoors. Group. Platatac.)
Brigadier Mark Smethurst DSC AM (Retd), (Chairman Commando Welfare Trust)
Ian Clark (Veteran)
Capt. Dr. Peter Kerkenezov BM, (Honorary Veterinary Surgeon Australian Light Horse Association & Honorary Veterinarian Australian Bravery Association)
Daryl Hockley (Veteran) The Medal Company
Damien Thomlinson (Veteran)
Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Association Inc.
Dr Kay Danes OAM (Adjunct Lecturer, University of New England)
Dr Kerry Summerscales, CSM (Veteran)
Dr Mark Robinson MP (LNP)
John and Vanessa Roxburgh (JR Medals)
Karen Phillips Executive Director – Women in Business Australia.
Kevin Otway (CEO/Founder Warrior Racing Limited- Australian Homeless Veterans)
LTCOL Padre Gary Stone OAM (Retd), (President Veterans Care Association) & Lynne Stone
Luke Gosling MP (ALP)
Major General Shane Caughey (Retd) Department of Defence
Michael Handley, (CEO of REDSIX)
Mick Bainbridge (Director & Solicitor Operational Legal Australia)
Mick Parent (President RSL Snowy River)
Paul Field, (Redlands Vietnam Veterans Group)
Phillip Thompson OAM MP (LNP)
Ray and Pam Palmer (Private Scott Travis Palmer killed in Afghanistan 2010)
Rodney O'Regan OAM VA (Detective Senior Sergeant Patrol Commander NSW Police Force (Retd))
Stuart Rutledge (Veteran)
The Sher Family (Private Gregory Michael Sher killed in Afghanistan 2009)
Tony Bonner AM (Australian Actor)

Officially Endorsed by over 50,000 petitioners across two petitions.

Military medals should tell the story of their service and sacrifice...

Military medals represent the ADF member's individual service but currently do not reflect, record or conclude their sacrifices in service, as shown on their military service record or on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll. Recognising *ultimate sacrifice* has driven this campaign for 25 years. The campaign initially began with a 'Sacrifice Medal' and supporting 'Killed-In-Action and Killed-In-Service Clasps,' but a more inclusive approach evolved to recognise **ALL ADF members** killed on *warlike, non-warlike operations and/or during general service*. Inclusively, recognition for those who are **DVA 'accepted health conditions'** cardholders and who have been wounded or injured on *warlike, non-warlike operations and/or during general service*.

The simplicity of our message is to formalise already accepted **service-related categories: Killed-In-Service (KIS), Killed-In-Action (KIA), Injured-In-Service (IIS), Wounded-In-Service (WIS) or Wounded-In-Action (WIA)** onto a **specific conditions medallic clasp** that would adorn either the Australian Defence Medal, a campaign medal or another medal already in service, or one that may be introduced in future. *Medallic clasps* are already a standard recognition process in the ADF. In the case of Killed-In-Service or Killed-In-Action, the medallic clasp would make an important statement to alert curious bystanders to the fact that the wearer has lost a loved one, are most likely carrying with them the trauma and grief from that loss, and should approach with some sensitivity to that fact. Ray Palmer talked about this in an interview on CH10 TV (The Project) and more recently in the Sydney Morning Herald.

When Ray Palmer wears the service medals awarded to his son, Private Scott Palmer, who was killed in 2010 when a US Black Hawk helicopter crash-landed on a night mission in Afghanistan, it leads to confusion on Anzac Day. Despite wearing the medals on his right side, he is often quizzed during what is meant to be a moment of quiet and personal reflection.

"People say, 'you've been a lot of places serving the country haven't you?' I say, 'these belong to my son and I wear them for him'," Mr Palmer said. "If you had something that says KIA (killed in action) or KIS (killed in service), it would signify that you are wearing them on behalf of someone you've lost."

Original article: Tim Barlass, Sydney Morning Herald (29 Mar 2021)
CH10 TV (The Project)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheProjectTV/videos/10155483511523441/>



Warrant Officer Class One Kerry Danes, CSM (above) says it makes sense to honour ADF members killed, wounded or injured by adorning their individual service medals with medallic recognition, to accurately reflect their service and sacrifice for generations to come.

KIS Honour the Fallen KIA

Award a Killed-in-Service (KIS) clasp on their campaign or service medal to complete their story of personal service and sacrifice.

It's their service and their sacrifice.

Striking a new service medal would require extensive marketing and would need to be gazetted into policy around ADF honours and awards. This would result in considerable cost to the taxpayer and is entirely unnecessary. All that is required to honour the fallen is to simply add a specific-conditions *medallic clasp* to the member's service medals. A medallic clasp would complete their story of service and sacrifice for generations to come, long after they or their loved ones are able to march in honour of that service and sacrifice. For example; if a **Killed-In-Service Clasp** were placed on the Afghanistan Medal (above) then that ADF member's service medals would accurately reflect that a significant event occurred (*to them*), *what* occurred (*ultimate sacrifice*) and *where* it occurred. That story would then accurately reflect their military record of service and the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll.



Killed-In-Service Clasp

Wounded-In-Service

Injured-In-Service

Medallic clasps offer the greatest flexibility and most cost-effective approach to date, and the much-needed sensitivity in defining the categorisation relating to ADF service and sacrifice. They also preclude commentators from using *cost* as a justification to prohibit or limit the number of those eligible to receive recognition. A medallic clasp could also expand the categories of service and sacrifice as the need arises. Additionally, the cost savings could be used to support Defence and Veteran causes towards wellbeing.

Recognition for Other Conditions

As illustrated on the Australian Defence Medals (above left), it is also entirely possible to give medallic recognition for *other conditions*. The Australian War Memorial already uses varying terms to define categories of death, wounding and injury; Killed-In-Action (KIA), Died-of-Wounds (DOW), Injuries-In-Service (IIS). Service-related injuries not resulting in death could be identified as DVA '*accepted health conditions*' Cardholders.



Photo Credit: Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence



Honour the Fallen



Award a Killed-in-Service (KIS) clasp on their campaign or service medal to complete their story of personal service and sacrifice.

This campaign focuses on the ADF member because it is THEY who serve and sacrifice their physical and mental wellbeing for others. That is a very personal sacrifice and should be recognised and reflected on their individual service medals to complete their story for generations to come. For example; the story of Acting Lance Corporal Stewart displayed on the Honour Roll of the Australian War Memorial and in his military service records is complete. But his service medals do not reflect that same story. Adding a Killed-In-Action clasp to the campaign medal would complete his story of *ultimate sacrifice* for the Nation. That small medallic clasp would align his service medals to the Honour Roll and his military service record. It would bring a meaningful conclusion to his individual story of service and sacrifice and others like him. We owe a huge debt to our fallen. The least we can do is to accurately tell their story!

ROLL OF HONOUR

Walter Herbert Stewart

Service number	QX10283
Rank	Acting Lance Corporal
Unit	2/7 Field Company
Service	Australian Army
Conflict/Operation	Second World War, 1939-1945
Conflict Eligibility Date	Second World War, 1939-1947
Date of Death	09 June 1941
Place of Death	Egypt
Cause of Death	Killed in action
Cemetery or Memorial Details	Tobruk War Cemetery, Tobruk, Libya



(Above) Current Medal Set

(Below): Proposed Medal Set



'If I am my Great Uncle's last remaining relative marching in his place, who will recount his story of sacrifice long after I am gone? Where he fought and where he died, a young man in a far off land... His name is honoured on a wall far away from where I live, and his service medals fail to reflect all that he gave in death. He was Killed-In-Action so others would know freedom... and so my life could be one of great adventures. Who will recount with pride his story when my voice can no longer be heard to speak of the *ultimate sacrifice* he made—Lest We Forget?'

Kay Stewart, QLD





Honour the Fallen



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Current categories in use in militaries worldwide



Killed-In-Action (KIA) is a commonly used term by militaries to describe military personnel killed on the battlefield. KIAs do not come from incidents such as accidental vehicle crashes and other “non-hostile” events. KIA is applied to front-line combat personnel and to naval, air, and support personnel. The Australian War Memorial also uses the term KIA as a cause of death category. The KIA clasp could be worn on a campaign medal, or other appropriate medals which currently exist or may be introduced in future.



Wounded-In-Action (WIA) is a globally accepted term used by militaries to describe soldiers’ *wounded while fighting in a combat zone during wartime, but have not been killed*’. Temporarily or permanently physically incapacitated (having an open or closed wound). Members eligible to receive the status of WIA need not have fired their weapons but have been wounded due to hostile attack. WIAs do not come from incidents such as accidental vehicle crashes and other “non-hostile” events. There is also a sub-category that describes military personnel who have **Died of Wounds (DOW)** in this category. Generally, someone who survived to reach a medical treatment facility and subsequently dies from those wounds. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also uses **DWRIA**, rather than DOW, for “Died of Wounds Received in Action.” However, historically, militaries and historians use DOW. The time period is specified in that the member dies soon after reaching a medical treatment facility. The Australian War Memorial also uses the term DOW. The WIA or DOW clasps could be worn on a campaign medal, or other appropriate medals which currently exist or may be introduced in future.



Proposed new categories for the ADF



A **Killed-In-Service (KIS)** clasp worn on the Australian Defence Medal could offer the most potential and greatest flexibility and sensitivity in defining the categorisation of an ADF member’s death in military service. It could also be worn on a campaign medal, or other appropriate medals which currently exist or may be introduced into the future.



Injured-In-Service (IIS) could be used to describe ADF personnel who sustain an injury during service and may be identified as DVA ‘accepted health conditions’ (Refer to DVA Cardholders [Link](#)). Members may have been medically discharged from the ADF, or medically down grounded and still serving, or undertaking rehabilitation retraining, or a veteran diagnosed with a service-related mental illness or another accepted injury. IIS could be interchangeable with ADF personnel who have been **Wounded-In-Service (WIS)** and are physically or mentally, temporarily or permanently incapacitated. The Australian War Memorial also uses the term ‘illness’ and ‘injuries’ as a cause of death category. The IIS and WIS clasps could be worn on the Australian Defence Medal, a campaign medal, or other appropriate medals which currently exist or may be introduced in future.



Other categories could be created in the future, depending on the requirement.



Past trends and current consideration

Recognising the **families of deceased ADF members**. In 2009, this campaign proposed, to **Federal Government**, a **Next of Kin Pin** that was **successfully introduced** to recognise the Next of Kin's support for a member of the Australian Army. A **Remembrance Pin** (right) was also issued as a symbol for the families of all Army members who have died while in service, both domestically and on operations. Navy and Airforce already have **bereavement pins** that are issued to family members. In death, an ADF member is farewelled with military honours, and their casket is adorned with their headdress, bayonet/sword and the Australian flag. All **outstanding medals** earned by the member are presented to *them* at the ramp ceremony by Defence and *later* presented to their Next of Kin.



In the **First World War**, Australian mothers and widows were issued a badge to acknowledge the sacrifice their loved ones made in service to their country. Mothers and widows eligible to receive the badge had to apply for it through a Post Office. Such recognition was not a posthumous medal for the fallen member, but it was an emblem demonstrating tangible national recognition for Defence families. Hence, this campaign is to solely focus on the ADF members because it is **THEY** who served and sacrificed their physical and mental wellbeing for others. **This individual and very personal sacrifice should be recognised.**



The United States award the Purple Heart to their members wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces.



Canada awards the Sacrifice Medal to members of the Canadian Forces, members of an allied force, and any Canadian civilian under the authority of the Canadian Forces who, as of October 7, 2001, dies or is wounded as a direct result of hostile action.



The **United Kingdom** has an Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll, which are granted to the Next of Kin of UK Armed Forces personnel who have died on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism in national recognition of their loss and sacrifice.

The **New Zealand** Memorial Cross is awarded to the next of kin of all New Zealand servicemen, and women who are killed while on war service or operational service overseas, or who subsequently died of wounds received while on war service or operational service overseas, since the commencement of World War Two.



In 2019, **Minister Darren Chester** (LNP) tasked a **Defence Council of Women and Defence Families** to consider Kerry Danes' submission. Thus bringing this campaign to 2021 and the call for a public discussion by way of submissions from others to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal. As of 24 March 2021, hundreds of submissions have been put forth. This will likely be the year we decide how an ADF member's service history will be remembered. This will indeed be an historic moment.

The Killed-In-Service clasp clearly defines that they did not grow old ...nor the years condemn.

The Evolving Conceptual Design

As stated earlier, the original conceptual design evolved from the ‘Sacrifice Medal’ and supporting ‘Killed-In-Action and Killed-In Service Clasp’ to an inclusive approach to recognise ALL service-related sacrifice.

A series of prototype medallic clasps shown below were designed by **Kerry Danes** and produced by **Ben Doyle-Cox CEO Platypus Outdoors Group (Platatac)** to generate interest in the campaign to honour the fallen. The medallic clasps show how versatile recognising service-related sacrifice could be.



Killed-In-Service (KIS), Killed-In-Action (KIA), Injured-In-Service (IIS), Wounded-In-Service (WIS) or Wounded-In-Action (WIA), Died of Wounds (DOW) and Died of Wounds Received in Action (DWRIA).

The campaign adopted the **wattle** in the final design, as the Australian Bravery Association, the Order of Australia awards system, and the Office of the Governor-General all identify with the wattle as a national emblem. A **black wattle** signifies loss and could adorn the Killed-In-Service and Killed-In-Action clasp with gold lettering.

A quantity of Killed-In-Action and Killed-In-Service clasps were produced by Ben Doyle-Cox to assist with the marketing of this initiative. Samples of these medallic clasps can be made available to the Tribunal. When located on the member’s service medals they make a powerful statement in recognition of service and sacrifice.

Honour the Fallen

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Commemorative gift boxes were also introduced as part of this marketing concept. These commemorative gift boxes could be produced at \$8.24 per unit (clasps are an additional \$1.76).



*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Lest We Forget

Corporate sponsorship has pledged support to cover the cost of medallic clasp recognition for those Killed-In-Service/Killed-In-Action.

Other medallic category clasps can be produced for less than \$1.76 per clasp.

Applications for medallic clasps follow the same process in place for all other Defence Honours and Awards.



The Killed-In-Service Petition



A 25 Year Campaign

Inspiring Veteran Groups and general Australians to lodge over hundreds of submissions to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal.

50,000 signatures collected across two petitions



51,000 views on **PRIME TIME TV** shared 474 times on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheProjectTV/videos/10155483511523441/>

CHANGE.ORG PETITION: 15,715 signatures:

<https://www.change.org/p/australian-defence-members-first-responders-killed-in-service>

Causes.com Petition: 31,543 signatures (includes First Responders Killed-In-Service).

<https://www.causes.com/causes/204480-australian-national-campaign-recognising-defence-members-first-responders-killed-in-service>

Eligibility and Application of Awards

There are existing application processes in the Australian Honours and Awards system regarding eligibility and application of awards recognition. The issue of retrospective awards is an issue that can be addressed by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal. The current criteria for eligibility of the Australian Defence Medal only requires ADF Members complete an initial enlistment period, or four years' service, whichever is the lesser. It includes those who died during service; discharged as medically unfit due to compensable impairment; discharged from service due to a prevailing discriminatory issue. For those who have not been awarded an Australian Defence Medal, then the category clasp could be worn on a campaign medal, or other appropriate medals which currently exist or may be introduced in future.

Corporate sponsorship has pledged support to cover the cost of medallic clasp recognition for those Killed-In-Service/Killed-In-Action. Other medallic category clasps can be produced for less than \$1.76 per clasp.



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Bipartisan Government support, the ADF serving and Veteran community, and prominent Australians...



**For your Sacrifice - For Our Freedom
Thank you**





It's their Service and their Sacrifice!

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