



## MEDIA RELEASE

# More support for veterans and families in New England

19 Dec 2017

Military veterans in the New England will be hearing a little easier thanks to Australian Government funding designed to support and promote independent lifestyles for ex-servicemen and women.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, congratulated the Legacy Club of Armidale on its \$2,181 grant made available through the Department of Veteran Affairs' - Veteran and Community Grants Program.

The funding will allow the club install a hearing loop to assist hearing impaired clients follow verbal instruction and dialogue from guest speakers.

"Our region has a rich history of military service spanning more than 100 years," Mr Joyce said.

"Our veterans deserve the best care possible and this funding will go some way to help them actively participate in local events and activities."

Legacy Club of Armidale represents about 150 widows in Armidale alone but also serves an area from Tenterfield to Walcha.

Honorary secretary Joan Dwyer said the funding announcement has been warmly received.

"We're delighted, it's certainly going to be of benefit to our widows and others," Mrs Dwyer said.

The Federal Government is also encouraging local businesses to nominate for a new national awards program recognising veterans and their employers.

The inaugural Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards is celebrating Australian businesses which employ veterans as well as veterans who are making a significant contribution to their workplace.

Winners will be announced at an award ceremony in March 2018 in Canberra attended by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and other members of government. But hurry as nominations for the awards close midnight on Friday 22 December 2017. To nominate visit [veteranemployment.gov.au/awards](http://veteranemployment.gov.au/awards)

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

The award categories are:

Leadership in Recruitment of Veterans

Veteran Employee of the Year

Veterans' Employer of the Year – Large Business

Veterans' Employer of the Year – Small to Medium-Sized Business

Veterans' Employer of the Year – Public Sector Organisation

Excellence in Supporting Veterans' Employment

Excellence in Supporting Spouse Employment

[ENDS]

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