

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green


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SUBJECT: Legacy

MEMBER: Ms LAUGA

Legacy

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.16 pm): Some 60,000 Australian service personnel were killed in World War I and more than 150,000 were wounded, many dying soon after. Realising the dire circumstances of the tens of thousands of veterans, widows and children left behind, those who returned set out to help them. In 1923, Major General Sir John Gellibrand formed the Remembrance Club in Hobart. Another returning soldier, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige, was inspired to establish a similar club in Melbourne that was named Legacy.

Legacy grew out of the ashes of World War I. Originally returned servicemen took on the duty of caring for and supporting widows and children. They later became known as legatees and to this day it is the legatees who volunteer the support that Legacy provides to its beneficiaries. Currently there are approximately 4,000 legatees throughout Australia, some having served Legacy for more than 50 years. Late last year I became one of them—a new Legacy legatee. I have two clients: Ciana, a 12-year-old girl who lost her father who served as an Australian naval diver, and Joyce, a 92-year-old Rockhampton woman. Joyce lost her husband who served in the Australian Army in World War II. I would like to acknowledge in this place the legatees of Central Queensland: Brian Hollins OAM, our faithful Chairman of Legacy Rockhampton and Central Queensland and Carol Gorton, Belinda Engstrom, Michelle Ponton, Lorraine Harry, Russell Coombes, Joy Coombes, Kelly Kiddle, Jan Catip, Fran Waterson, Tom Polley, Jenny O'Donnell, Barbara Lawrence, David Nunn, Noel Gardner, Sue Conrad, Keanu Jones, Ann Botting, Bronwyn Hill and Graham Rutherford. We are supported by our outgoing CSO, Scharryn Kneen; our new CSO, Jo-anne Peace; and administrator Mary Scully.

Legacy is still caring for tens of thousands of widows who have lost their loved ones and been affected by their partner's service in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency and Vietnam War, as well as campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and in peacekeeping operations across the globe. Legacy started as a small organisation with local legatees assisting local families. Today, there are 45 Legacy clubs, plus one in London, providing emotional, social and financial support. In the trenches of the Western Front during World War I, a soldier said to his dying mate, 'I'll look after the missus and kids.' That has become known as 'the Promise' and it is still kept today.

Our community at Legacy is devoted to enhancing the lives of families of veterans who have served in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions and have died or become seriously injured either in service or subsequently. Legacy is an amazing organisation supported by the work of our dedicated legatees, volunteers, staff members and widows. Those individuals make up a dynamic community of people, ranging from schoolchildren to senior citizens. It is with their assistance that Legacy is able to continue working to support our veterans' families.