



RSL | NSW

STATE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

Poppy Appeal – 11th November 2017

Date: 17 October 2017

To: All RSL District Councils, sub-Branches, Women's Auxiliaries, Day Clubs and Youth Clubs

State Council advises that despite making all available efforts to enable RSL NSW to be in a position to resume fundraising, this will not be possible in time for the Poppy Appeal on 11th November 2017. Accordingly, sub-branches and other RSL NSW related entities and subsidiaries are directed to continue the fundraising ban implemented on 7th August 2017 and not to collect funds from the public as part of the Poppy Appeal on 11th November 2017.

We are conscious that RSL members have been fundraising on Remembrance Day for many decades. Engaging with the public on the 11th of November remains a critical part of our community service, and an important component of our mission to honour and serve Australia's defence community, including those who served Australia during the first world war.

Accordingly, State Council (in coordination with the trustees of the RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution) has resolved to fund and distribute more than 130,000 poppies to all of our sub-branches, so that RSL members may distribute them, free of charge, to members of the general public. We want you to remind the public of the importance of pausing to reflect those veterans who have served our country, and the families that supported them. We want you to thank the public for their support of RSL NSW as it moves through a difficult period, and remind them that we are working hard to fix the problems identified throughout our league. Poppies have been posted to your sub-branches, and you are able to purchase more should you wish.

We stress that no money must be accepted for these poppies or any other tokens which sub-Branches or Auxiliaries may wish to give out. The fundraising ban imposed by State Council remains in force. Any RSL members breaching this directive would be disobeying a direction of State Council, and could find themselves in breach of the Charitable Fundraising Act and subject to criminal penalties. Any such actions could give rise to serious consequences for the individual, their sub-branch, and the league.

We thank you for your patience and co-operation as we work our way through this very involved process. We are pleased to report that 80% of sub-branches have returned their fundraising surveys to Anzac House. Once the remaining 70 sub-branches return their surveys, we will be able to commence fixing our fundraising operations so that we are compliant with the law and all regulations. We anticipate making a public announcement regarding the Poppy Appeal shortly.

State Council regret that we will not be able to raise money for needy veterans and their families this November. We recognise the distress and hardship this will cause some of our smaller, rural, sub-branches who rely on public funds to underpin their charitable works – please be reminded that State Branch has made funds available to support such sub-branches.

Thanks for your service to the league, we look forward to fixing these problems and resuming our vital work for veterans and their families.

James Brown

President