



MEDIA STATEMENT

Board of Inquiry – 21st December 2016

In a special meeting of the RSL NSW State Council today, it was advised of the findings of the recent KordaMentha investigation and adopted the resolutions put forward by RSL National for a widened enquiry by KordaMentha and an independent Board of Inquiry both due to commence early in the new year.

“We are broadening the internal investigation to ensure we fully investigate all of the allegations of financial misconduct by some RSL NSW council members,” said Acting RSL National President Robert Dick.

It is proposed that the independent Board of Inquiry be presided over by a former High Court , Federal Court or State Supreme Court Judge appointed by RSL National in consultation with the RSL National Solicitor.

The inquiry will consider the further KordaMentha report and be able to hear submissions from all the individuals adversely referred to in the KordaMentha report and make recommendations on any further action which needs to be taken in relation to their conduct or inaction. The independent board of inquiry will be further supported by legal counsel to be announced early in the new year pending their engagement.

“The board of inquiry will identify the nature and extent of all the payments made to the individuals specified in the initial KordaMentha report; and investigate the influence those individuals had over decisions for payments or donations made by the district council and sub-branches to RSL LifeCare.

“It will also investigate the circumstances surrounding Don Rowe’s resignation and the alleged misuse of expenses.

“We will work in unison with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and other Government agencies who are currently conducting their own investigations into these matters. To further support this process, we will enact a new compliance and governance model to ensure we have rigorous processes in place across the organisation.

Last week, the NSW Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott referred some of the initial findings of the KordaMentha report to the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Fair Trading and NSW Police for further investigation.

The RSL National President briefed Mr Elliott today on the Leagues intention to undertake an independent board of inquiry. The Minister has offered to provide the league with additional Government support on matters that arise during the inquiry should it be required.

It is expected that the Board of Inquiry will commence hearings and deliberations soon after KordaMentha finish its further report sometime in early March 2017.

For more information and to read previous statements from the RSL please visit rslnational.org

Media contact: Georgie Macris, RSL National - 0427 253 392