

**Sub-Branch Remits – 2026 State Branch Annual Conference**

**Statement by the Sub-Branch:**

The Hawthorn Sub-Branch certifies that the remits submitted have been debated and agreed to at a General Meeting of the members held on 22/03/2026. [Rule 8.8(b)(2)]

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Sub-Branch Secretary

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Sub-Branch President

Date:

Date:

No.	<p><b>Rule Remit:</b> Note: Any remit that sets out to amend or add to the current Rules must be prefaced with the words "<i>That the Rules of the Branch.....</i>". Rule remits are subject to the requirements of special resolutions under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and must be in a proper form when provided on the notice to members.</p>
1	<p><b>That an Officer of Cadets or Instructor of Cadets is not entitled to Service Membership of the League.</b></p> <p>That the RSL National By-Law Rule 2. Membership, (g) <i>the person has completed 10 years of aggregate service as an Officer of Cadets or Instructors of Cadets</i>; be removed.</p> <p><b>Justification / Rationale</b></p> <p>Hawthorn RSL acknowledges and deeply respects the contribution made by Cadet Instructors, Officers of Cadets, and volunteers in supporting the development of young Australians through the cadet movement.</p> <p>However, Service Membership of the RSL should remain reserved for those who have rendered qualifying service in the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force.</p> <p>While Cadet Instructors may wear the uniform of the Australian Defence Force in the performance of their duties, they are not enlisted or appointed members of the ADF and do not undertake military service in the same legal, operational, or service capacity as those who formally join and serve.</p> <p>To extend Service Membership to Cadet Instructors would risk diluting the meaning and integrity of that category of membership and blurring the distinction between valued voluntary service and qualifying military service.</p> <p>This remit is not intended to diminish the contribution of Cadet Instructors, but rather to preserve the purpose of Service Membership as recognition of those who have accepted and performed service in the armed forces of the nation.</p>

No.	<p><b>Policy Remit:</b>  Note: Policy remits do not alter the Branch Rules. They seek to provide direction to the State Executive on Branch matters.</p>
1	<p>That the State Branch adopt the following policy position:</p> <p><b>RSL Victoria support the call by RSL Australia for the Afghan war crimes investigations to be brought to a close.</b></p> <p><b>Justification / Rationale</b></p> <p>Hawthorn RSL notes the significant financial, legal, and human cost associated with the protracted Afghan war crimes investigation process. What may have begun as a necessary examination of serious allegations is now widely perceived by many within the veteran community as a drawn-out and disproportionate process that has inflicted profound harm on current and former serving members, their families, and the broader reputation of the Australian Defence Force. The continuation of these investigations has, in the view of many veterans, ceased to serve the interests of justice in a timely, balanced, or constructive way.</p> <p>Hawthorn RSL further submits that the extended nature of these investigations has caused substantial damage domestically and internationally, while delivering limited practical value relative to the scale, duration, and cost of the process. RSL Victoria should therefore support the call by RSL Australia for this matter to be finalised and brought to a close, in the interests of fairness, finality, and restoring confidence amongst serving and former serving members that they will not be subjected to indefinite and open-ended investigative processes.</p>