



## Media Alert

### Air Force Association NSW Division

6 September 2022

#### **Improving the lives of Veterans'. One Paw at a time**

Air Force Association NSW (AFA NSW) together with Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) are proud to announce the sponsorship of an assistance dog through the Defence Community Dogs program.

Assistance dogs are trained in specific tasks to support medical conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD), and play a big part in helping Veterans rebuild their lives. It takes approximately 9 months and 250 hours of training to develop a dog to assistance level and upon graduation our special dog will be matched with a suitable Royal Australian Air Force Veteran.

The Defence Community Dogs (DCD) program has been running since 2014 and provides selected dog breeds, trained to Assistance Dog level, to serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members. Over the last six years, DCD has provided assistance dogs to over 50 Australian Defence Force Veterans who needed support to deal with injuries and illnesses.

This initiative will be one of many joint Ad Astra projects initiated by AFA NSW with the aim to develop and expand our commitment to Veterans. We invite patriot minded businesses and other ex-service organisations to participate in our programs providing an opportunity to contribute to the Veteran community and to publicly register and promote your support for Veterans.



“A key focus for the AFA NSW is to deliver continued services that help support and meet the needs of veterans and their families, it also allows us to work in collaboration with ex-service organisations to deliver other support programs such as transition and social connection.”- Ron Glew, President AFA NSW

We hope this initiative demonstrates that working together with other ex-service organisations to provide niche services can make a significant difference to veterans lives and we hope it inspires and encourages others to follow.

If you are a Veteran, or know a Veteran, who may benefit from an Assistance Dog, find more information here <https://dcdogs.com.au/apply>

Contact:

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