



# ANDREW RUSSELL VETERAN LIVING

*Opening doors to end veteran homelessness*



# What is ARVL?

RSL Care SA's Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) is a veteran's housing program which aims to ensure that ex-service personnel in South Australia have the opportunity to access appropriate and affordable housing solutions.

ARVL provides housing options for veterans in two ways:

Through an emergency accommodation program designed for those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness

An affordable housing portfolio designed to provide long term affordable housing solutions.



*"I am certain I wouldn't be alive now without ARVL as I was at my lowest and recently attempted to end my life just prior to receiving the support. Thank you all so much."*

ARVL resident





## Who was Andrew Russell?

SGT Andrew Russell was a South Australian born SAS soldier who was killed in Afghanistan in February 2002 when the long-range patrol vehicle he was travelling in struck a suspected anti-vehicle mine. Andrew was the first Australian military death in action since the Vietnam War more than 30 years earlier.

SGT Russell enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on the 26th of November 1986. After he completed his Recruit Training at Kapooka, he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineer Corps. At the completion of his Initial Employment Training, Sergeant Russell was posted to the 2nd/3rd Field Engineer Regiment.

Sergeant Russell successfully completed the Special Air Service Selection Course in 1991 and completed a number of specialist courses ranging from patrolling, demolitions, parachuting, sniper, and medical.

During Sergeant Russell's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following Operations:

OPERATION BLAZER (Iraq) - 1997

OPERATION WARDEN (East Timor) - 1999

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) - 2002

OPERATION POLLARD (Kuwait) - 1998

OPERATION TANAGER (East Timor) - 2000

Sergeant Andrew Russell is survived by his wife Kylie and daughter Leisa.



# What does ARVL hope to achieve?

Since January 2016, ARVL has provided in excess of 27,500 nights of accommodation to over 235 homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness and over 480 years of accommodation for over 130 veterans through our affordable housing units.\*

## Emergency Accommodation

ARVL's emergency accommodation consists of 10 units, in the suburb of Sturt, designed to provide temporary accommodation for veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in need of transit accommodation. Our program operates with an adapted housing first solution and our primary goal is to focus on housing pathways to assist veterans in securing permanent housing. Additionally, whilst residing in our emergency accommodation, we develop individualised case plans to assist veterans to actively work towards addressing their own situation of homelessness by engaging with external support agencies and relevant Ex-Service Organisations.

RSL Care SA will provide a fully furnished one bedroom unit or bedsit (as pictured below). The length of stay at ARVL will be determined on a case by case basis and will be in alignment with personal circumstances and housing needs.

## ARVL's Affordable Housing

ARVL's affordable housing portfolio consists of 36 affordable units (predominately one bedroom) and three houses designed to provide long term housing solutions for ex-service personnel and their dependents. These unfurnished units are targeted to applicants with the ability to live independently, meet all tenancy obligations and are on low to moderate income.

*\* as of 1 March 2025*





# ARVL Impact Data - 12 months



An average of 5 enquiries a month for accommodation.



## Marital Status:

53% were single  
31% were divorced/separated  
15% married/de facto 1% widowed



87% of veteran residents have been diagnosed with a mental health condition



## At the time of applying:

51% were actively homeless  
43% were at risk of homelessness  
6% had unsuitable housing



## Gender of residents

88% male  
12% female



Average age is 47 years old  
Average length of service is 9 years

*"ARVL offered me structure and stability during my separation when I was unable to help myself." ARVL resident*

## Australian Veteran Statistics

\* \*Within a 12-month period:

5.3% of the recently transitioned ADF population were homelessness in a 12-month period, which is significantly higher than for the general population at 1.9%.

Across a cohort of contemporary veterans,

**50%** of homeless veterans could be considered transitionally homeless; and of those:

**25%** are considered chronically homeless.

\* \*Source - Hilferty, F., Katz, I., Van Hooff, M., Lawrence-Wood, E., Zmudzki, F., Searle, A., Evans, G. (2019) Homelessness amongst Australian veterans: Summary of project findings. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), Melbourne.



# How you can help

## Cornerstone Program

\$2,500 provides sponsorship and naming rights to an ARVL unit for a year. This includes:

- A plaque outside of the unit with 'This unit is proudly sponsored by'
- Pays the cost of the 'Services Fee' for the veteran resident (covers electricity, gas and water) saving the veteran resident over \$750/year
- Provides a personal care package for a veteran resident (value \$250)
- Covers the general maintenance and administration of the unit for a year
- Acknowledgement on the arvl.org and RSL Care SA website

## Ridge Program

\$5,000 sponsorship provides naming rights for 2 ARVL units

- As per the Cornerstone Program, for each unit
- Monthly social media posts on ARVL and RSL Care SA social channels

## Trident Program

\$7,500 sponsorship provides naming rights for 3 ARVL units

As per the Cornerstone Program, for each unit

- Monthly social media posts on ARVL and RSL Care SA social channels
- Permission to use the ARVL logo on your website





# How you can help cont...

## ARVL Platinum Partner

\$10,000 sponsorship provides support for one of our affordable housing sites, and:

- Invitation to the annual ARVL Dinner for four guests
- Sign on site acknowledging sponsorship – ‘Proudly sponsored by’
- Acknowledgement on RSL Care SA and ARVL websites
- Monthly social media posts on ARVL and RSL Care SA social channels
- Permission to use the ARVL logo on your website

## Boots Program

\$50 and \$100 packages for grocery packs

\$250 for a personal care pack

\$500 for a veteran starter pack

\$1000 for a complete care pack

\$5,000 or \$10,000 to provide complete care packs for 5 or 10 veterans

*“RSL Care gave me back my independence. I’d jumped from hospital to hospital, with very limited family support. I came to SA from Melbourne in 2020 and knew no one. Mental illness is difficult enough without the added burden of trying to find somewhere you can afford to live. I consider myself extremely lucky. I was offered a lovely unit with ARVL, it was clean and private, yet I was surrounded by more help and care than I have ever experienced. I finally felt safe and began to live again. They not only gave me a chance at making a new start but found me permanent housing in a newly built Westside Housing unit and even provided furniture. Between RSL Care SA, Open Arms and DVA I now finally have a home.”*

ARVL resident



# About RSL Care SA

RSL Care SA is a proud not for profit charitable care provider serving the ex-service and wider community of South Australia for over 100 years. Our mission is to support veterans, their dependents and the broader community through a range of integrated retirement living, aged care and support services.

We offer residential aged care (nursing homes) at the War Veterans Home in Myrtle Bank, Morlancourt in Angle Park, and Romani, in Murray Bridge. We have retirement living at Sturt Village in Marion, Hamilton Village in Glengowrie, War Veterans Retirement Village in Myrtle Bank and Waterford Estate in Murray Bridge, in addition to the properties within the ARVL program.

*"They were there when I was at the bottom of the pit...  
and because of everyone that helped...I'm a lot better."*

ARVL resident



Scan QR to donate

ANDREW RUSSELL

VETERAN LIVING

If you would like to know more, please contact the ARVL Program Manager on: 0488 137 570 or email: [ARVL@rslcaresa.com.au](mailto:ARVL@rslcaresa.com.au)

[www.arvl.org](http://www.arvl.org)