

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY CALLED TO PROTECT WAR MEMORIALS

National community organisation Graffiti Hurts – Australia with the support of the National RSL is calling on all members of the community to keep a watchful eye on their local war memorials as we near ANZAC Day celebrations around the country.

Anzac Day is a time that we can all reflect and pay tribute to those men and women, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice and some of whom are currently serving, to ensure that every person in Australia could have the freedom to live and prosper and a day that we all should respect.

The call comes after Graffiti Hurts – Australia research shows graffiti vandalism attacks on local war memorials has been on the increase over the past 7 years and has a bigger effect than just the money use to clean it.

Graffiti Hurts – Australia CEO, Scott Hilditch said “A number of cowardly vandal attacks on war memorials have caused much pain to people in the community in the run up to one of the country’s most cultural significant days and we believe the community can help to ensure it doesn’t happen this year”.

“With the recent discovery of HMAS Sydney, some 66 years after she went missing this Anzac Day will be even more significant to the families of those on the Sydney and I think all fair minded citizens have just cause to be disgusted when these attacks take place, said Hilditch.

With attacks having occurred in Sydney, Ettalong, Hobart, Townsville, Ebbw Vale, Eaglehawk, Nth Fremantle, Bathurst, Albury, Sydenham, Nelligen, Waverley, Perth (TAS), Adelaide and Myall to name a few, it shows the importance of why all community members across the nation should help keep a watchful eye on these community assets.

Community members are encouraged to ring their local police station or the police assist line 131 444 or Crime Stoppers if they see someone loitering around war memorials and not to think someone else has already reported it, not only in the run up to Anzac Day but all year round.

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Graffiti Hurts – Australia highlighted that some states have specific legislation in place to charge and fine offenders if caught vandalising a war memorial as it is seen by those governments as such an important community issue. Their research also showed that local governments Australia wide are spending over \$260 million of ratepayers money a year to remove graffiti vandalism on community owned assets.

The public can be the eyes and ears to help the RSL and their sub branches ensure that all Australians show respect for our war heroes this Anzac Day and on those memorials dedicated to people who fought for the freedom we enjoy and will not be denigrated by a senseless act of graffiti vandalism this year.

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For further information and interviews please call Scott Hilditch, CEO, Graffiti Hurts – Australia 03 9720 7356 or 0411 596 634 or the National Return Service League on 02 6248 7199

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