

RAAFA



Andrew Russell Veteran Living

Supporting veterans who are
homeless or at risk of homelessness

2023

A photograph of a person sitting on a grassy field, looking out over the ocean at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the person is silhouetted against the bright horizon.

ANDREW RUSSELL
VETERAN LIVING

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Australian Veteran Statistics



Source - Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Source: Homelessness amongst Australian veterans <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/research-papers/homelessness-amongst-australian-veterans>

Sergeant (SGT) Andrew Russell



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, SGT Russell was posted to the 2nd/3rd Field Engineer Regiment.

SGT Andrew Russell

SGT 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 his service in the Australian Defence Force, SGT Russell was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal with East Timor clasp and International Coalition Against Terrorism Clasp, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the International Forces East Timor Medal, the Australian Service Medal with Iraq clasp, the Australian Defence Medal, the United Nations Medal with the United Nations Transitional Authority East Timor Ribbon, the Infantry Combat Badge and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

On 16 February 2002, whilst serving in the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), SGT Russell was travelling through southern Afghanistan with four other Australian soldiers when their Long Range Patrol Vehicle struck a land mine. He died of sustained wounds.

SGT Russell's death in Afghanistan represented the first Australian military death in action since the Vietnam War more than 30 years prior. SGT Russell is survived by his wife Kylie and daughter Leisa.

The Andrew Russell Veteran Living program is named in his honour. In February 2022 the launch of the ARVL program in WA marked 20 years since SGT Russell's passing.

Mission



RAAFA's Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) program provides ex-service personnel in Western Australia (WA) who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, an opportunity to access an appropriate and affordable housing solution. Practical supports enable veterans to generate positive accommodation outcomes for themselves.

Mission

To reduce the number of veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness in Western Australia.

Provide emergency accommodation to veterans that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

To assist veterans access to established government and NGO services to support independence and wellbeing.

Goal Statement

To provide a purpose-built accommodation in Perth, Western Australia to house veterans who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

Housing First Solution

At present there is no specific provision of Community Housing rental units or accommodation programs specific to the veteran community in Western Australia.

Programs do exist in other States and some have been running successfully for a number of years. In addressing this gap, RAAFA has developed the following foundational targets:

Target #1

Provide accommodation for up to 16 veterans at any given time

Target #2

Deliver up to 5000 nights accommodation to veterans in the first 12 months of operation

Target #3

Secure funding for ongoing operational costs

RAAFA's ARVL emergency accommodation will consist of 16 units, in the suburb of Cannington, designed to provide temporary accommodation for veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in need of transit accommodation. The program will operate using an adapted housing-first solution using the primary goal focusing on housing pathways to assist veterans in securing permanent housing. Additionally, whilst residing in the ARVL emergency accommodation, individualised case plans will be developed to assist veterans to actively work towards addressing their own situation of homelessness by engaging with external support agencies and relevant Ex-Service Organisations (ESO's).

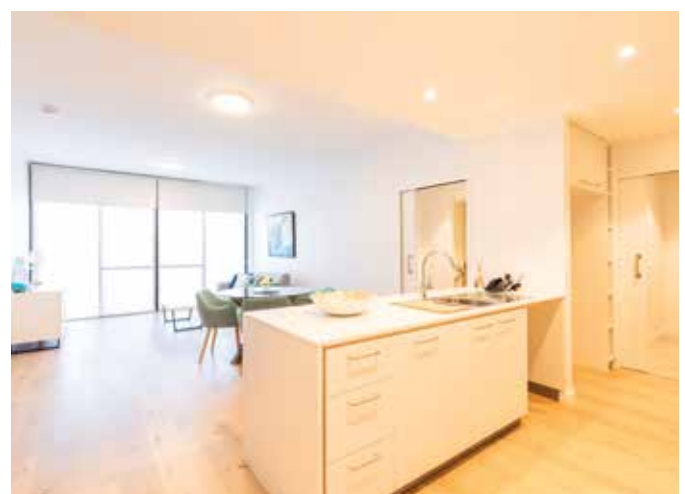
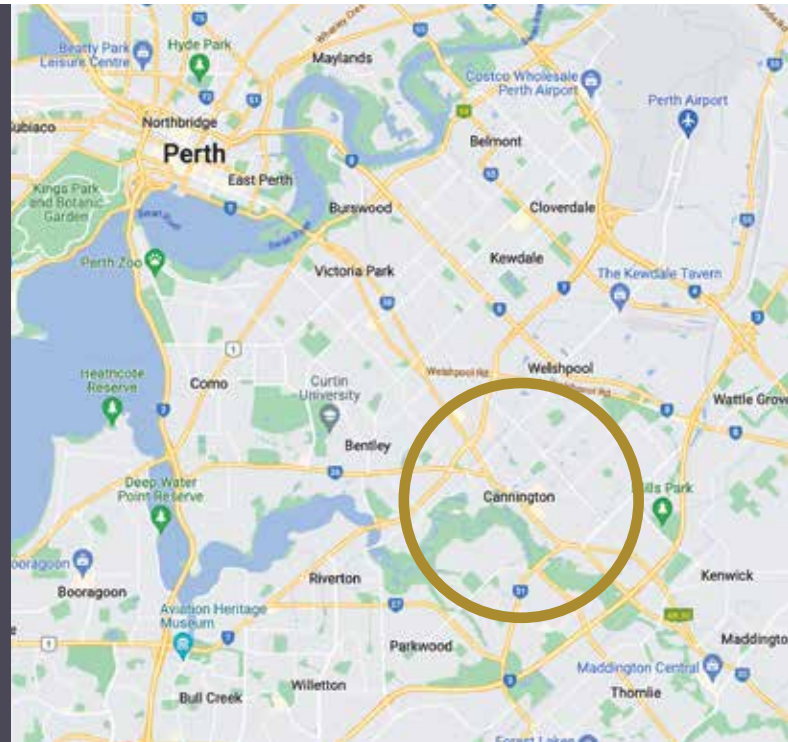
RAAFA will provide a fully furnished one bedroom unit or bedsit. The length of stay at ARVL will be determined on a case by case basis and will be in alignment with personal circumstances and housing needs.



Standard Room 30sqm Disability Access 42sqm

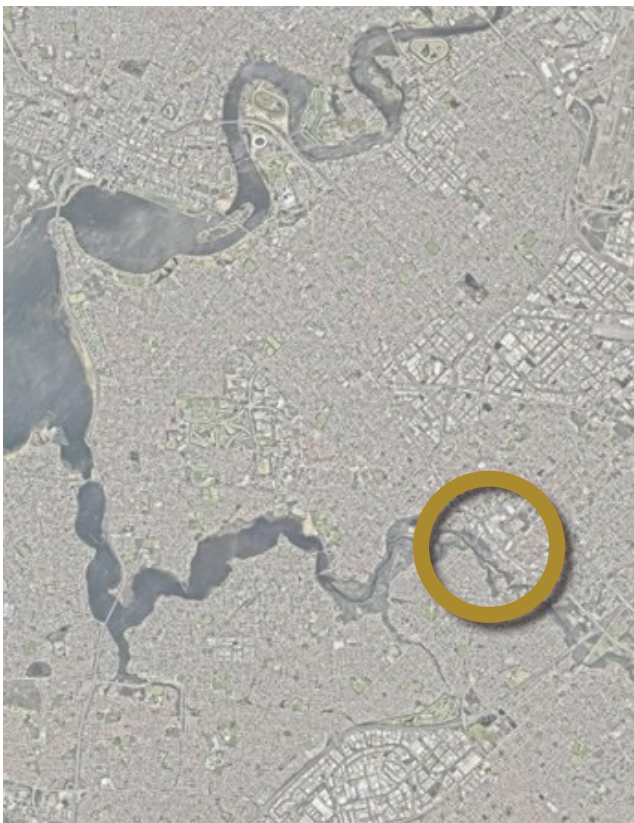
RAAFA ARVL site is located in Cannington, WA and is in close proximity to:

- Public transport
- Medical facilities
- External support agencies and ESO's
- Shopping centre
- Perth CBD (6kms)



** Images from RAAFA Cirrus Apartments development

Timeline



RAAFA launched the ARVL program on 16 February 2022. By late 2022, two blocks had been purchased and settled in Cannington, WA to be used for the ARVL accommodation. RAAFA has committed to provide purpose-built accommodation that will house up to 16 veterans across 16 units.

RAAFA is currently in Phase 3, fundraising for construction. Funding is now being sought through a number of revenue streams including philanthropic donations, Lotterywest, community grants, Department of Veterans' Affairs, as well as the State and Federal government.

Site works will commence no later than September 2023 for the proposed opening of the ARVL accommodation on 16 February 2025.

The Budget

The emergency accommodation rent will be set as a percentage of a veterans Centerlink payment or DVA pension, currently estimated at 30%, which is in line with most community housing organisations.

Financial targets

\$8,800,000

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

\$500,000

LANDSCAPING

\$250,000 p.a.

OPERATIONAL COSTS

Future plans for growth

\$100,000

NEW APP DEVELOPMENT

\$13,500 p.a.

DONATION SOFTWARE

Additional sources of revenue

- PHILANTHROPIC DONATIONS
- LOTTERYWEST
- GRANTS
- DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
- STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

How to Support

Sponsorship

Donation	Value	Quantity
Personal Care Pack	\$250	Ongoing
Veteran Starter Pack	\$500	Ongoing
Split system reverse cycle air conditioner	\$2,500	16
Furniture Fit-out	\$3,800	16
Operations p.a.	\$250,000	Ongoing
Construction	\$8,800,000	

All donations are gratefully received and will go directly to support the RAAFA ARVL program.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

About RAAFA

RAAFA is one of WA's largest and most trusted not-for-profit retirement living and residential care providers and have been caring for people in WA since 1929.

On ANZAC Day In 1929 a group of Australian Flying Corps (AFC) veterans came together to maintain their comradeship and recreate the spirit of solidarity and values they experienced as members of the AFC.

The Australian Flying Corp Association evolved into the Royal Australian Air Force Association Inc, and recently changed its name to Air Force Association, an organisation that includes Divisions in each State and a National Office in Canberra. The Association exists to support Australian ex-service people.

An important part of RAAFA's DNA is the work we do around our charitable purpose. This includes working with our members and various branch networks, because we are an organization that was founded by members, supporting veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force, particularly the Air Force members and their families. There is also, our history and heritage which includes our Aviation Heritage Museum and the work that we do with commemorative events.

Today, the Air Force Association (Western Australian Division) Incorporated, trading as RAAFA is proud to be creating communities open to all and taking the next step, to provide a housing solution for veterans in need.



RAAFA



Air Force Association
(Western Australian Division) Incorporated
- trading as RAAFA

18 Bowman Street, South Perth WA 6151

T (08) 9288 8400

E arvl@raafawa.org.au

W raafawa.org.au

 RAAFAWA

