

ASASA AGM 2023 – Report from Younger Veterans Forum Representative

Representative details:

Nick Russon

ARA Service from 1992 - 2017

Former Patrol Commander; 16 years in SASR

Level 2 Compensation Advocate for ASASA (WA) since 2017

ESO Duties:

Represent ASASA at the Younger Veterans' Contemporary Needs Forum.

Appointed July 2023

Activities attended during 2023: 3 x Teams meetings, 1 x face to face round table in Canberra, ASASA (WA) Advocates Training Forum

Relevant topics discussed during 2023:

- DVA Private Travel Expenses for Medical Appointments
- The Thompson Institute. Research into the use of Ketamine and Psychedelics for PTSD Treatment
- Retrospective Medical Discharge. Offsetting implications
- Advocacy Reform Update. Introduction of a trial Level 1 Module - combining Advocacy and Wellbeing

Future discussion points:

- The lack of services available to Younger / Contemporary Widows
- DVA's (possible) use of Covert Surveillance on Clients and the effect on Veterans with Mental Health Conditions

ASASA Representative Observations:

- The Younger Veterans Forum is an excellent method to bypass bureaucratic red tape and liaise directly with the decision makers in DVA
- The lead time for submission of discussion points is long; any topics that the ASASA committee, Younger Veterans or the Regiment Advocacy Team wish to submit need to be discussed well in advance
- Dissemination of key points to ASASA members needs refinement