

# Media Release

## Australian War Widows Queensland proudly celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Friday 20 October 2017

On Thursday 26 October 2017, Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) is celebrating 70 years of existence and its various achievements over the years, most notably the increase in war widows' pension and benefits.

The event will commence with an official ceremony at 10:30am in the World War II Gallery at Anzac Square with singing by the *Military Wives Choir*. Following the ceremony, a formal luncheon will be held from 12:30pm at Brisbane City Hall with special guests, *The Soldier's Wife*.

*The Soldier's Wife* have written and produced a song, *Woven Hands*, specifically to recognise Australian War Widows Queensland and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AWWQ, formerly known as the War Widows Guild of Australia (Queensland) Inc. This song will be launched at the luncheon, performed by *The Soldiers Wife*. The CD of the song will also be released at the same time.

AWWQ State President Mrs Jenny Gregory (widow of a Vietnam veteran) said that since 1947, AWWQ has played a crucial role in ensuring that war widows and their families affected by defence service are embraced, recognised, valued and supported.

"We have the honour, at our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony, to mark the formation of our Queensland War Widows Guild, 70 years ago, to thank Mrs Jessie Vasey and to remember our loved ones."

Today, there are more than 17,000 war widows in Queensland, including a small number from more recent conflicts in East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mrs Gregory invites all war widows in Queensland and passionate supporters, to contact AWWQ to learn more about the organisation and the support it can provide to defence widows.

### About

Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ), previously operating as War Widows' Guild of Australia (Queensland) Inc, exists to empower, inspire and celebrate all war widows and families while providing whole of life support and assistance.

### For further media information contact:

Ms Ashmina Bhattarai

Community Engagement Coordinator

Phone: 07 3846 7706

Email: [ashmina@warwidowsqld.org.au](mailto:ashmina@warwidowsqld.org.au)

