



# THE FAWCETT FLYER

MARCH/APRIL 2021



Decisions by Italy and European Union to block the export of vaccines reveal why sovereign capability is vital in a variety of sectors. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed weaknesses in supply chains to critical national systems which are essential to Australia's ability to function as a secure, prosperous, first world nation. A whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure greater success in identifying and mitigating these weaknesses.

Over March and April, I continued to engage a wide range of stakeholders to raise awareness and support for changes which would strengthen our national resilience, changes detailed in the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's report from the 'Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade'. More on this in 'Committee Update' on *Page 3*.

On April 25th, Australia commemorated the 106th anniversary of the day the ANZACs landed on the shores of Gallipoli – providing all Australians the opportunity to honour the men and women who have served and are serving in defence of our country.

Their service and sacrifice remind us that freedom always has, and always will come at a price.

The sacrifice that Australian service personnel have made, and continue to make, is evident in the themes to be explored as part of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. In April, Prime Minister Morrison announced the Royal Commission would be established – the findings and recommendations of which will support the ongoing work of the proposed National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention. For more information and how to have your say on the Terms of Reference, turn to *Page 6*.

For more information on any matters in this edition of the Fawcett Flyer or other matters of a federal nature, please contact my office via the details available on the back cover.

Kind regards,

**SENATOR THE HON  
DAVID FAWCETT**





It was a pleasure to join the Prime Minister, alongside my federal colleagues and Premier Marshall, for the official opening of Raytheon Australia’s Centre for Joint Integration in Mawson Lakes (pictured). The Manufacturing Centre is Raytheon Technologies’ first Australian production facility launched to serve as the main site for the manufacture, final assembly, and system delivery of the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAM).

Consisting of three-dimensional radar coverage, advanced medium range air-to-air missile, and KONGSBERG’s leading mobile fire distribution centre, the NASAM is a world-class air defence solution developed jointly by Raytheon Australia and KONGSBERG to enhance ADF’s Short Range Ground Based Air Defence Capability – a part of the LAND19 Phase 7B program. In March, the Morrison Government awarded

Raytheon Australia with an initial \$111 million contract to support the first five years of sustainment for the NASAM, coinciding with the Centre’s opening and coming under the Morrison Government’s 10-year \$270 billion investment in Australia’s defence capability. 300 ongoing jobs are expected to be created by the facility. At least 35 staff will be employed by Raytheon for progress on the Short-Range Ground Based Air Defence program alone.

The Australian Government’s once-in-a-generation \$270 billion boost to Australia’s defence capability is creating and sustaining thousands of defence industry jobs across South Australia.

For more information, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.





Throughout March and April, I continued to be invited to speak at various forums on implementation of the 16 recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) recently-completed 'Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade'.

The report, which I tabled in the Senate in late 2020, explores steps Australia should take to increase the resilience of our critical national systems via sovereign capabilities or through developing trusted, transparent supply chains with likeminded nations. For more information on this Inquiry, view the November/December 2020 edition of the Fawcett Flyer, available on my website.

I recently spoke with host Phil Tarrant

on the Defence Connect INSIGHT Podcast, and was interviewed by Professor Joanne Wallis for the University of Adelaide's Stretton Institute (*pictured*). Both interviews are available via my website [here](#) (scan the QR code below).



I also spoke at two events, hosted by Adelaide University's Institute for International Trade, and the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, to detail steps Australia should take to build a national resilience framework. These were good opportunities to discuss the outcomes of the inquiry more fully with university leadership and a broad cross section of stakeholders.

Support for the enactment of Magnitsky-style legislation has grown since I tabled the Committee's report, as JSCFADT Chair, on its 'Inquiry into whether Australia should examine the use of targeted sanctions to address human rights abuses' in the Senate in late 2020. Members and Senators across the political divide have been calling for this legislation – to enable the Australian Government to impose travel restrictions and freeze assets on perpetrators of serious human rights abuses and corruption. Following the lead of like-minded nations such as the US, UK, and most recently the EU, among others, the report recommended Australia enact a world leading version of Magnitsky-style legislation.

ASPI's 'The Strategist' published an article in March entitled, "Australia needs a Magnitsky Act", which reflects that "Magnitsky-style legislation could be a powerful tool... to fight organised crime".

During Additional Estimates hearings for the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee (SFADTLC) the need for an Australian Magnitsky Act was discussed, in relation to the Burmese coup, among a variety of issues.

The SFADTLC also held its first public hearing for the inquiry into

the Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced by Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020. This Bill would amend the Customs Act 1901 to prohibit the importation into Australia of goods from China's Xinjiang province, as well as goods produced using forced labour from other parts of China.

Uyghur groups in Australia – the majority of whom are believed to reside in South Australia – were able to present their views on the proposed Bill, alongside several Government departments, through submissions and testimony to the Committee.

In March, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) held two public hearings for the ongoing inquiry into national security risks affecting the Australian higher education and research sector. The committee heard from a variety of stakeholders, including Director General of ASIO, Mike Burgess, who noted the scale of foreign interference in universities was higher than at any time since the Cold War.

For more information on Inquiries before Parliamentary Committees, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



# INVICTUS PATHWAY TO IMPROVE VETERAN'S MENTAL HEALTH



In late February, I joined Premier Steven Marshall at the Invictus Games: Team Australia wheelchair rugby training session by the team chosen for Invictus Games at The Hague 2020. Due to COVID, the Invictus Games at The Hague have been delayed until April 2022.

In March, I joined 150 veterans and their families in attending the Veterans Archery Family Day – facilitated and supported by the Invictus Pathways Program, Archery Australia, Veteran Sport Australia, the University of South Australia and the Adelaide Archery Club. Also attending was Governor of South Australia His Excellency the Hon Hieu Van Le AC, and veteran support service Open Arms.

These events give veterans and their families a glimpse at how adaptive sport can provide goals and a purpose to work towards which aids mental health and underpins physical rehabilitation – particularly

for veterans who face significant challenges associated with returning from active deployment.

The Invictus Pathways Program – a unique collaboration between The Road Home and the University of South Australia – is one such program which seeks to assist veterans through the benefits of sport. The first of its kind in Australia, the Invictus Pathways Program provides support and tailored facilities needed for veterans who are aspiring to compete in the Invictus Games. The Invictus Pathways Program are also a crucial facilitator of the “Setting a New Course” veteran sailing program. For more information on the Invictus Pathways Program, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



# ROYAL COMMISSION CONSULTATION BEGINS

6

Between 2001 and 2017, 419 suicides by veterans occurred.

In my Maiden Speech in the Senate, I said: “We expected the loyalty of service men and women when they enlisted and if they deployed; they have a right to expect ours now they have returned and retired.”

In order to gain a better understanding of suicide in the serving and ex-serving community, and subsequently provide better support, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced in April that the Government is establishing a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, with the findings and recommendations to inform the proposed National Commissioner for Defence and Suicide Prevention’s ongoing work.

The Royal Commission and the National Commissioner are to be established together and operate in a complementary way to achieve long-term change.

The Royal Commission is to systemically investigate past deaths by suicide (including suspected suicides and lived experience of suicide risks), while the National Commissioner is to have a forward-looking role, including overseeing

the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations.

Before the Royal Commission begins, a rigorous consultation process will develop the Terms of Reference – including consultation with defence and veteran communities.

This consultation is to ensure the Royal Commission is focused and based on the experiences and perspectives of those who have been impacted by Defence and veteran suicide. Following consultation, all feedback will be provided to the Attorney-General’s Department which will lead the drafting of the Terms of Reference.

Consultation is now open, and I encourage anyone with relevant experiences or insight, to have their say.

For more information on the Royal Commission consultation process, and how to have your say, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



## AUSTRALIA TO DEVELOP SOVEREIGN GUIDED MISSILE CAPABILITY

This April, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion investment to fast-track a Sovereign Guided Weapons Enterprise (SGWE), supporting the development of guided missiles and enhancing Australia's sovereign defence capabilities.

Australia will build a suite of missiles locally to meet Australia's growing needs and provide export opportunities as a second source of supply, most likely in partnership with the manufacturer of existing missiles systems. The program may also seek to bring to the point of production, developmental work Australia has completed in advanced areas, such as Hypersonics.

Bringing forward the investment for a SGWE will ensure Australia has adequate munitions supply to sustain combat operations in a

conflict and defend our nation. The SGWE, which could be worth up to \$40 billion in local production and export over the next 20 years, will accelerate Australia's Army, Navy and Air Force's sovereign industrial capability and provide thousands of local jobs in businesses across defence and defence-related supply chains. For more information on the SGWE, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



This announcement follows the recent release of our Government's National Defence Roadmap, which outlines a 10-year plan for investment. The Defence sector is 1 of 6 priority sectors in the Government's Modern Manufacturing Strategy – supplemented by a \$1.5 billion investment to ensure the strategy delivers on its goals. For more information on the Defence Manufacturing Roadmap, click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



# AUSTRALIAN SPACE DISCOVERY CENTRE LAUNCHES

8



In addition to the opening of Raytheon Australia's Centre for Joint Integration, Prime Minister Scott Morrison came to Adelaide for the official opening of the Australian Space Discovery Centre (ASDC), located at Lot Fourteen with the Australian Space Agency HQ.

Specifically designed to provide interactive space exhibits and practical advice for those wanting to pursue a space-related career, this development has been made possible through the Australian and SA Government's \$649 million Adelaide City Deal. The site also contains the recently-opened Responsive Space Operations Centre – developed by SA-based company Saber Astronautics and funded by a \$6 million Federal Government grant – enabling local space businesses to track and control their very own missions and satellites.

Since 2018, the Australian

Government has invested over \$700 million into Australia's space sector, with the overall aim of tripling the sector's size to \$12 billion and creating an additional 20,000 jobs by 2030. To date, the Australian and SA Government's landmark Adelaide City Deal has also funded the Australian Space Agency HQ and Missions Control Centre, supporting growth in South Australia's skilled workforce, investing in cutting-edge research, and making SA the leading state in the space sector.

The ASDC will open to the general public in May, following testing with community groups. For more information on the ASDC, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



## OUT AND ABOUT



In early March, I met with Kevin and Jerry Seeley from Global Water, with Nicolle Flint MP, who provided me with an overview of their business and facilities at Tonsley. The Federal Government's ongoing investment in sovereign Defence capability continues to create new business opportunities for innovative companies like Global Water - who are supporting defence infrastructure development.



In March, I met with His Excellency, Mr Nguyen Tat Thanh, Ambassador for Vietnam to Australia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Australia is providing \$34 million to support Vietnam's access to vaccines and vaccine roll out, which is an important first step towards working on greater economic recovery.



On April 25th, I attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service hosted by the Salisbury RSL at the Salisbury War Memorial. While COVID-19 restrictions were still in place at services this year, it was great for the community to be able to gather again to commemorate the service of ADF personnel – both past and present. Pictured with Mr Graham Reynolds (*left*), SA State Liberal Candidate for Wright, and Trevor Thompson (*right*), a former crew member on Iroquois and Black Hawk helicopters that I flew as an experimental test pilot at RAAF Base Edinburgh.





Great to visit REDARC Electronics's facility in Lonsdale in April and meet with Mike Hartas, Chris Johnson and CEO Anthony Kittel to receive an update on their innovation to support defence capability. The company has continually expanded in size as it has grown in the Defence sector. They have now supplied components for naval shipbuilding, the Australian-made Hawkei protected vehicles and the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System.

In April, I met with John Boag, CEO of Cobham Aviation Services, doing a visit to Cobham's Adelaide facilities in the Adelaide Airport precinct. Cobham are a key player in Australia's aviation sector providing Australia's Coastwatch, Maritime search and rescue, and some defence services, as well as a broad range of commercial flights to support the mining sector and cargo.



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