



# **Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **NSW Opposition Leader**

### **Shadow Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **DIGGERS TO GET AUTOMATIC ENTRY TO RSL AND SERVICES CLUBS ACROSS NSW**

A NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will legislate to grant ex-servicemen and women who are full service RSL members automatic entry to all RSL and Services Clubs, without the need to sign in, NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell and Shadow Minister for Hospitality, Tourism and Major Events George Souris announced today.

"The days of diggers signing into every RSL club they visit will end," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This will allow the State's 55,000 RSL ex-servicemen and women Sub-Branch members to enter any RSL or Services Club and not have to sign the 'temporary members register'," he said.

"Many former servicemen and women visit clubs in the RSL family when travelling – we owe them the right to access any of our 270 RSL and Services Clubs across NSW without having to sign in.

"This is a mark of recognition and respect for those RSL and Services Club members that have served our country, and if we can make their lives a little bit easier, we should do so."

Mr Souris said a NSW Liberals & Nationals Government would amend the Registered Clubs Act to allow ex-servicemen and women who are RSL members entry to RSL and kindred clubs on producing a valid financial membership card of the RSL.

"This is a sensible and practical measure that will bring NSW into line with Victoria," he said.

"There is considerable confusion, and in some cases angst in border towns and regions where RSL members can feel offended by being asked to sign in.

"This initiative will allow members of all RSL Sub-Branches in Australia entry to RSL and Services Clubs in NSW just as in the case with NSW veterans visiting Victoria at present.

"Not only will this plan make life easier for servicemen and women, but it will make our RSL's more accessible."

NSW RSL State President Don Rowe and RSL & Services Clubs Association Chairman Bryn Miller welcomed the announcement which has been a long term goal of the Association.

"This is good news for our members who will be able to more easily access RSL and Services Clubs across NSW," Mr Rowe said.

"I am happy the NSW Liberals & Nationals took the time to listen to our concerns and act positively to help our members and their clubs," he said.

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