

**BRIEF:** To – Independent Defence Estate Audit; Mr Jim Miller & Ms Jan Mason  
By – ANVAM

## **ANVAM & 310 ST KILDA RD: A CULTURAL INSTITUTION SUPPORTING THE DSR**

### **What:**

The Repatriation Clinic, at 310 St Kilda Rd, built in 1937 for veterans' health and wellbeing, is a CWLTH property proposed as a cultural institution by the *Australian National Veterans Arts Museum* (ANVAM) since 2013. Government considering options how to provide access to ANVAM.

### **Why:**

The Defence Strategic Review (DSR) emphasises ADF workforce challenges for National Defence. ANVAM, a unique arts and cultural institution, provides arts based programs for veterans' mental health and wellbeing, adding to the ADF's 20+ static museums showcasing artifacts. ANVAM is an important whole-of-government, including the [arts](#) and [cultural diplomacy](#), and whole-of-nation initiative toward improving ADF people capability and strengthening National Resilience.

**How:** Minister recognises ANVAM's value to National Resilience seeking options for access:

1. Appointing ANVAM Trustee, IAW [Land Acquisition Act s.122](#) per [ALP 2016 election policy](#).
2. Establishing legislation appointing ANVAM Trustee per [SHFM](#) precedent.
3. Off-Market Concessional Sale to ANVAM per the [Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy](#).
4. Transfer to *Dept of Veterans Affairs* as site of [historic commemorative significance](#).
5. Transfer to *Creative Australia* under [s12\(2\)\(d\)](#) as a veteran's arts and cultural museum.
6. Licence to ANVAM per the [GFF Licence template](#) or equivalent.
7. Off-Market Concessional Sale to [Melbourne City Council](#), given change of circumstances.

### **Relevant Points:**

- Defence's new Cultural Blueprint states "*culture is fundamental to Defence's mission and wellbeing*".
- The DSR underscores the importance of people capability for National Defence and Resilience.
- Veterans, including ANVAM, contribute to National Resilience through their training and skill sets.
- ANVAM's mission is a continuation of the Clinic's historical veterans' wellbeing purpose.

### **Additional Key Dates:**

- 1995: Building last used by Defence.
- 2013: ANVAM founded due to 310 St Kilda Rd to establish an arts and cultural institution.
- 2022: Defence removes the property from surplus list, engaging a consultant for [usage ideas](#).

### **ANVAM's Impact:**

- ANVAM's arts engagement programs have demonstrably increased veterans' wellbeing.
- Positive testimonials reflect the impact of ANVAM's programs on veterans.
- ANVAM's work to [access 310 St Kilda Rd](#), engaging stakeholders and developing a [concept design](#), has created a groundswell of support for this place as a permanent home of veterans arts.

### **Challenges:**

- Engaging Defence to find common ground to recommend to Government.
- Delays leading to missed opportunities, a fragmented landscape and risk to Government.

### **Funding:**

- Government spent \$5m on this initiative (2022) signalling to sophisticated donors its commitment.
- Building works, now <\$15m, will progress within funds available to mitigate funding risk.
- Capital Fundraising Feasibility Study confirms ~\$20m philanthropic funding is achievable.
- Requires written CWLTH pledge, or actual transfer, before fundraising can commence.
- Staged approach to building works supports fundraising; donors see the need and their impact.

**Location Significance:** near the Shrine, VBM and Arts Precinct adding to value of proposed use.

### **Estate Review Considerations:**

- Senate review of [Defence Disposals, 2001, 6.18](#) re museums providing visibility to the public.
- Benefits of ANVAM's unique proposal to DSR's goals, Defence culture, and other Government priorities confirm this proposal ***demonstrably contributes to government service delivery outcomes*** and is ***value for money***. This leads to only one conclusion for the properties future.

**Audit Recommendation:** *ANVAM's proposal is an important DSR and Defence cultural initiative, and its whole-of-government impact warrant ANVAM's appointment as Trustee of 310 St Kilda Rd.*