

MEDIA RELEASE |

EMBARGOED UNTIL 28 OCTOBER 2023

GINA RINEHART ANNOUNCED AS SOLDIER ON HONORARY GUARDIAN

Soldier On Chairman, Lt Gen Peter Leahy AC (Ret'd) is delighted to announce Mrs Gina Rinehart AO as Soldier On's Honorary Guardian of our veteran community.

This official position recognises Mrs Rinehart's longtime support and tremendous fundraising efforts for the charity. Most recently, she rallied her personal networks to raise a significant amount for the charity at a private luncheon in Queensland. Soldier On celebrates her contribution to safeguard the charity's impactful national support services for veterans and their families.

Many Australians hold a strong connection to our Defence Force, with over half a million veterans (581,000 Census 2021) having served our nation. The current Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has highlighted that 20% of veterans can face significant long-term challenges.

Soldier On is Australia's national charity providing support to current serving and former Australian Defence Force members and their families. More than 11,000 Australians currently benefit from the charity's evidence-based, trauma-informed programs and services. With a mission to ensure veterans and their families thrive, Soldier On particularly supports through the often-challenging transition to civilian life.

Together with Hancock Prospecting, Mrs Rinehart is amongst those leading the way to create pathways for meaningful careers for veterans after they leave the military. Understanding the challenges that come with transitioning from military to civilian life, Mrs Rinehart initiated Hancock Prospecting's Veterans Employment Program to provide veterans not only with more job opportunities, but also a supportive work environment that values their unique skills and experiences. Hancock Prospecting's flagship iron ore operation, Roy Hill, is also a proud Soldier On Pledge Partner.

As a charity, Soldier On's lifechanging – and sometimes lifesaving – support services are only possible due to the generosity of the Australian community. Mrs Rinehart has long sought ways to contribute and support those that have selflessly served their country.

The charity's Chairman, Lt Gen Leahy, praised Mrs Rinehart's advocacy for veterans.

"Soldier On would like to recognise her extraordinary patriotic support of Australia's servicemen and women," he said. "Mrs Rinehart is an incredible friend and champion of Australia's veterans."

Soldier On's CEO, Amy Cooper, said this new representational position honours the warm and strong support Mrs Rinehart has shown to the charity.

"Mrs Rinehart has been instrumental in inspiring our charity's cause amongst others to help make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families," Ms Cooper said.

Lt Gen Leahy formally announced Mrs Rinehart's official position at Soldier On's Gala evening in Brisbane on Friday 27 October.

ENDS

Interview Opportunities

Lt Gen. Peter Leahy (Ret'd), Soldier On Chairman
Amy Cooper, Soldier On CEO

Media Enquiries

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About Soldier On

Soldier On is a not-for-profit veteran support organisation delivering a range of services to enable current and ex-serving veterans and their families to thrive. It is Australia's only national fully integrated and holistic support services provider for our national service personnel and their families. Soldier On currently reaches more than 10,000 Australian veterans and their families. Soldier On's services include a range of mental health and wellbeing services, employment support and education programs, as well as activities focused on connections with family, friends, and the broader community.