

# COMMUNIQUE

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## National Site of Recognition for thalidomide survivors and their families

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### Steering Committee Meeting #3 – 20 January 2022

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The Australian Government is establishing a National Site of Recognition for thalidomide survivors and their families, as part of the broader package of support under the Australian Thalidomide Survivors Support Program.

The project is being led by the Department of Health in collaboration with the National Capital Authority (NCA). A Steering Committee, comprised of four (4) thalidomide survivors and a carer/partner representative, was formed in October 2021, to provide advice relating to the location and design of the National Site of Recognition for thalidomide survivors and their families, as well as its official dedication (opening).

The Steering Committee, chaired by Ms Tiali Goodchild, Assistant Secretary, Preventive Health Policy Branch, is managed by the Australian Thalidomide Survivors Support Program Team.

The Steering Committee met for the third time on 20 January 2022 via video/teleconference.

#### MEETING #3 – DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATIONS

The main areas for discussion at the third meeting of the Steering Committee related to the outcomes of the Design Aspects Survey and the design of the National Site of Recognition itself.

The Chair provided an update on the process undertaken by the NCA to procure design concepts for the National Site of Recognition. The Committee was informed that this process was undertaken in mid-December 2021 and that three design concepts were received and deemed suitable for the purposes of the project. The three design concepts were used to inform a Design Aspects Survey to allow all survivors registered with the Program, their family, friends and carers, to nominate their preferred design concept, and to provide feedback.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Design Aspects Survey was conducted from 10 – 16 January 2022. The Committee was provided with a summary of the outcomes from the Survey, identifying the preferred design concept. The Committee heard that feedback was received from 67 individuals, comprised of 64 completed responses to the Survey, and 3 items of feedback received via other means.

The Committee discussed the preferred design and the feedback provided by respondents. The Committee identified some main areas of feedback for consideration by the preferred design team. In addition, the importance of ongoing engagement with the Committee to continue to inform aspects of the preferred design was discussed.

The Committee was informed that the NCA would consult with the designers to discuss the adjustments and modifications raised through the Survey and by the Committee, for example accessibility, with the aim of having an amended design to progress to the next stage of the process.

The Committee was informed about the NCA's process to seek approval of the character and intent of the preferred design for the National Site of Recognition Project from the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC). The Committee was advised approval would be sought by the CNMC via its upcoming meeting.

#### NEXT STEPS

The following next steps were agreed:

- The NCA will table the preferred design for the National Site of Recognition for consideration at the next CNMC meeting, scheduled for early February 2022.