

**MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday November 10 2016**

**EVENT DATE: Sunday November 13 2016**



## ***O'Grady Leads Inaugural Tour deFence***

Stuart O'Grady, dual Olympic medallist will lead a group of 67 dedicated cyclists this **Sunday November 13** on the inaugural Tour deFence, a cycling event touring South Australian defence sites and raising vital funds for injured veterans and their families.

Coordinated by The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, Tour deFence is showcasing South Australia as '*the defence state*', proudly uniting veterans, defence personnel, their families, industry partners and the South Australian business community to collaboratively raise these much needed funds. 100 per cent of funds raised in Tour deFence will go towards vital research and programs to support the health and wellbeing of injured veterans and their families through both The Repat Foundation – The Road Home and event partner RSL Active.

"I'm really passionate about helping out our ex and current servicemen and women and believe cycling is a good segway into setting goals, keeping fit and active and achieving new pathways in life for their recovery, whether it be their physical injuries or their hidden wounds," Mr O'Grady said.

"I am very proud to be a part of this event to highlight the two charities involved and what they achieve in supporting our men and women who have and still are serving this country."

Backing his support behind the event, South Australia's Mental Health Commissioner Chris Burns will join The Honourable Leesa Vlahos MP, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse on Sunday at Torrens Parade Ground, the finish line of Tour deFence.

"Our veterans and their families volunteered to make sacrifices to ensure Australia's security. Helping them when they are injured is not voluntary, it is compulsory for all Australians," Mr Burns said.

***"Critical to the success of us helping them to recover is the most thorough and best resourced research. Show your support for our injured veterans by investing in the all-important research that is conducted by The Repat Foundation – The Road Home."***

Research enabled by this important event will examine the invisible injuries that impact those who put themselves in harm's way to help protect us, such as Post-Traumatic Stress.

"We're very excited to be partnering with a number of organisations to make Tour deFence a reality, including RSL Active and the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) who run the South Australian Defence Industry Leadership Program (SADILP) – the future leaders of the defence industry," said General Manager of The Repat Foundation – The Road Home Karen May.

Through part proceeds, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home will also support RSL Active in their delivery of programs to support injured veterans and their families including physiological, outdoor and learning activities which support rehabilitation with motivation methods such as goal setting, camaraderie and teamwork.



The inaugural ride this Sunday will conclude in the heart of the city for a family fun day, including a defence display at the Torrens Parade Grounds.

### **INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY**

7:00am: Ride commences (6 staged starts based on speed) at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct - Defence SA

10:00am: Family Fun Day Event Village opens at Torrens Parade Ground

**10:30am: Peloton led by Stuart O'Grady arrives at Torrens Parade Ground (please call around 9:30am for any changes to this estimated arrival time)**

### **AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW THIS WEEK AND AT TORRENS PARADE GROUND ON SUNDAY from 10:30am**

- Stuart O'Grady, dual Olympic medallist
- Chris Burns, Mental Health Commissioner and Veteran
- The Honourable Leesa Vlahos MP, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Karen May, Executive General Manager, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home
- Mark Reidy, Veteran, Cyclist and Veterans & Family Program Co-ordinator at RSL Active

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*The Repat Foundation – The Road Home (in partnership with The Hospital Research Foundation)*

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*The Repat Foundation – The Road Home's Tour deFence is proudly in partnership with RSL Active and the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) who run the South Australian Defence Industry Leadership Program (SADILP) – the future leaders of the defence industry.*



*The event is also possible thanks to the following event partners:*

