

## **Statement of the significance of the life of Sir Edward Weary Dunlop in respect of community service.**

There are many great Australians who have significantly impacted their communities and inspired positive change and action throughout history. Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop is one of those Australians.

During his life, Dunlop served in the Australian Army in various countries overseas working as a soldier and surgeon in the Australian Army Medical Corps. What makes Dunlop's story so inspiring is that he held an unwavering drive to care for the sick, even if it was at the expense of his own health.

There were many times in his service where he was physically punished for going against his captor's rules by helping sick prisoners. Dunlop scavenged food for the sick, built makeshift hospitals, and of the 5600 patients he tended to in this brutal and hostile environment, only 56 died.

After surviving the war, his caring spirit and passion to help others survived too. Dunlop continued to leave an impression on his community, as he supported those who were also prisoners of war, helping them make pension claims, lobbying governments for them and putting himself forward for leadership roles in veteran organisations.

Extending beyond his literal actions of positive community involvement, Dunlop also advocated that he held no hatred towards the Japanese community, in effect, helping to culturally ease tensions in the Australian and Japanese relationship. These deeply profound acts of leadership and community service have had a lasting positive impact on Australian society, and his legacy of self-sacrifice and compassion continues to influence the community today.

