



Wing Commander Sharon Bown AM

Sharon Bown (nee Cooper) was born in Hobart Tasmania in 1975. She studied Nursing at the University of Tasmania and worked at Calvary Hospital, Hobart, before joining the Royal Australian Air Force as a Nursing Officer in January 1999. Sharon deployed as a United Nations Peacekeeper to Timor-Leste, February - August 2000 on Operation Tanager, and March - June 2004 on Operation Citadel. On the 2nd of June 2004 Sharon was seriously injured in a helicopter crash on duty as an aeromedical evacuation nurse in the village of Same.

Sharon is known for her devotion to service, overcoming life threatening injuries to continue to serve and deploy on Operation Bali Assist II in 2005, serve as aide-de-camp to the Minister for Defence in 2006; and as the commander of a critical care team deployed to Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan on Operation Slipper in 2008.

The injuries Sharon sustained in Timor-Leste in 2004, regrettably led to her medical discharge from service in September 2015. Undeterred, she found new ways to care for the men, women and families of the Australian Defence Force, including as a Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, 2016 - 2025.

Sharon was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2023 for service to veterans and families.