



Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program – ongoing funding

This initiative provides ongoing funding for, and expands, the Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program (the Program).

The Program expansion will provide financial support to eligible veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who have privately sourced a suitably trained and accredited psychiatric assistance dog prior to the Program's implementation, ensuring they are not financially disadvantaged.

Why is this important?

Psychiatric assistance dogs play an important role supporting veterans living with PTSD. They are trained to meet the individual needs of their veteran handler and can detect signs of distress and perform tasks to help alleviate symptoms of stress and anxiety.

Who will benefit?

Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD who meet eligibility requirements for the Program will benefit from the ongoing funding for the Program. Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD who meet the eligibility requirements for the Program and have privately sourced an accredited psychiatric assistance dog will benefit from the expansion to allow for maintenance costs of these dogs to be met.

Date of effect?

The expanded Program will be available from 1 July 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$22.0 million over four years.

