



Wednesday 10 May 2023

<b>Location:</b>	Hobart and Launceston – Tasmania
<b>Time:</b>	2pm – 3pm

### DVA Participants

Luke Brown	Deputy Commissioner Tas (Chair)
Anne James	Executive Officer – Scribe

### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Terese Smith	DPAC
LTCOL Neil Grierson	SADFO
Deb Coulson	RAAF-A (Proxy)
Ray Williams OAM	TPI Assn
Jacinta Leahy	PVA
Barry Quinn	RSL Tasmania
Catherine Starling	Mates4Mates
David Waddle OAM	Advocacy and Legacy Hobart (Proxy)
Kevin Evorall	Launceston Legacy

### Apologies

Name	Organisation
Elaine Devlin	Open Arms
John Findlater	APPVA
Terry Roe	VVAA
BRIG John Withers	VRG

Meeting chaired in Hobart and held via video conference in Launceston.

Apologies noted.

Chair Luke B opened the meeting and apologised for the lack of distribution of the previous minutes. They will be sent out with the minutes of the Budget Brief. The ESO Budget Brief (attached below) was discussed.



230510 ESO Slide  
pack BB 2023.pdf

## Discussion & questions

### Priorities [slide 2]

- *Barry Q asked what happens to the 500 staff once the back log is cleared.* The Chair explained that we are converting to non-ongoing staff or on-going staff where possible rather than labour hire. Natural attrition and the current labour market will have an ongoing effect.
- *Jacinta L asked if these are trained staff.* The Chair explained that there is a mix of experience and training levels with training being ongoing as new staff are recruited.
- *Barry Q noted that the investment in IT is good expenditure if it will help staff assist veterans.*

*The Chair expanded on the legislation reform and reminded attendees that the consultation period closes on 12 May23.*

### Processing – Additional Funds [slide 8]

- *Neil G asked how the risk to staff of year on year employment is being managed.* The Chair responded that there is a bigger risk in not getting the back log under control than the possibility of an overspend on salaries and the ratio of labour hire employees to APS staff is being reduced. Using the demand driven funding model and working to better predict workloads moving forward will assist in managing this risk. ADF and DVA data analytics are becoming more efficient.

### Sir John Monash Centre - Additional funding [slide 9]

- *Terese S commented that she enjoyed her recent experience there and could not see how it needed updating at this time.* The Chair explained that the updates are for technical equipment that requires updating to allow the use of emerging technologies.
- *Terese asked how many visitors does the centre attract each year - **Anne to obtain these figures***

### Support Veterans – Volunteer Training in Suicide Recognition and Intervention [slide 10]

- *Barry Q asked if this funding was to continue the Mental Health First Aid training.* The Chair responded yes, through Open Arms.
- *Terese S asked how many people are targeted for training in Tasmania - **Anne to obtain these figures***

### Supporting Veteran Families at risk [slide 11]

- *Neil G noted that \$0.5 m will not go very far especially over four years.* The Chair advised that the funding is for eligible families, specifically grandparents raising the children of veterans, and is not capped.
- *David W commentated that the current additional support package is working well and he has had very positive outcomes when he has brought issues to DVA's attention. The Chair encourages ESO representatives to make himself or Anne aware of clients with additional support needs.*

### Cross portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care [slide 15]

- *Jacinta L noted that this should lead to better / more co-ordinated care.*
- *There was general positive discussion about the bulk billing measure.*

*DVA fact sheets pertinent to the Budget are available at [Budget 2023–24 | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#);*

*Health and Aged Care fact sheets are available at [Budget 2023–24 | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#); and*

*Social Services fact sheets are available at [Budget 2023-24 | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](#)*

Meeting ended at 3pm. Next DCCF is scheduled for Wed 8 Aug 2023 at 2pm