

Department of Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs
Links Steering Committee

Summary of Meeting – 29 September 2023

The 65th meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Friday 29 September 2023. The following Policy, Programs and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

Strategy

Defence is working on the National Defence Strategy for consideration by Government in early 2024. The Defence Secretary will consult with the DVA Secretary on relevant workforce issues, and DLSC will hear regular updates on ADF recruitment related matters at future meetings.

On 14 October 2023, new ICT functions will be released to enable a greater number of claims to be fully processed online. DVA is working with Defence on the JP2060 project, including development of a portal to enable two-way data transfer.

DVA is working to eliminate the initial liability (IL) backlog by the end of 2023. Defence and DVA Service Access Mechanism teams are aware of ongoing challenges and are working together to resolve them.

The Defence and Veteran Family Wellbeing Strategy Steering Committee continues to develop a final submission to the Minister for consideration. The Strategy is intended to be overarching, with an action plan to be subsequently developed. The Strategy and action plan will be designed with flexibility in mind to respond to emerging priorities.

Governance

The DLSC Charter is being updated to reflect agency realignments as well confirming business rules for the operation of the DLSC.

Members noted DVA met with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs regarding the performance of the Defence Services Housing Insurance Scheme (DSHI) including the impact of recent natural disasters. Separately members noted the Defence Housing Support Review which is intended to be provided to Government this year.

Performance

Members noted progress of the Veterans' and Families' Hubs in a number of locations.

Other Business

2024 meeting dates will be considered and approved out of session.