



## Minutes

### Agenda Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

The Chair opened the meeting acknowledging country, veterans, and current serving Australian Defence Force Personnel. Members **NOTED** apologies as listed at Annexure A and no conflicts of interest were raised.

### Agenda Item 2 Previous Minutes and Action Items

Members **AGREED** to close Action Items 2023NACCF/A12, A15, A16, A17 and A19. Members **NOTED** action items 2023NACCF/A9, A13, A14 and A18 remain in progress.

### Agenda Item 3 Aged and Community Care Taskforce

Members **NOTED** the establishment of the Aged and Community Care Taskforce to bring together all areas of the Department to manage significant work in the health and aged care sector. Members **DISCUSSED** the Department's involvement with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) on the New Aged Care Act and **NOTED** the need to assist veterans, widows and their families to connect with aged care and navigate the system and supports available.

Members **NOTED** submissions, actions and minutes from previous years have been consolidated into a register and **AGREED** for NACCF to be a conduit for consultation and discovery sessions.

No.	Action	Assigned to
2024NACCF/A1	Aged and Community Care Taskforce to convene a discovery session with NACCF members in the coming weeks to discuss Issues Register being compiled, and progress discussions.	Aged and Community Care Taskforce

### Agenda Item 4 Department of Health and Aged Care

#### Agenda Item 4.1 Aged Care Reform

Members received an update from the DoHAC representative, and **NOTED** there has been recent consultation on the New Aged Care Act and new model for regulating aged care standards, with a Q&A document under development in relation to the New Aged Care Act. Members **NOTED** the draft National Strategy was released and the final version has been delayed but expected to be released in the coming months.

#### Agenda Item 4.2 Care and Support Economy Taskforce

Members **NOTED** the Care and Support Economy Taskforce is continuing to host working groups to develop proposals to go to National Cabinet and **NOTED** the delay to release the National Strategy.

#### Agenda Item 4.3 Integrated Care and Commissioning

Members **NOTED** the initiative of the Integrated Care and Commissioning aims to bring together government resources across Health and Aged Care, Disability and Veterans' Affairs to address local care and support abilities, and have better coordination between care sectors. Members **NOTED** trial sites for establishment in regional and rural locations where there are gaps and supply shortages and **NOTED** DoHAC will lead the initiative.

#### Agenda Item 4.4 New Aged Care Act Exposure Draft

Members received an update and **NOTED** the consultation held on 14 December 2023 has been extended to 8 March 2024 based on feedback. Members **NOTED** the themes coming from the consultation include understanding

implementation time lines, definition of high quality care, scope of duty of care, duty of function, nominee arrangements, whistle-blower protections and timeframes for reviewing decisions.

Members **DISCUSSED** concern for lack of advertising for the consultation, what cohorts are being considered and **NOTED** the consultation had public advertising with the veteran community being a focused cohort. Members **NOTED** that links to the New Aged Care Act feedback website would be provided to members following the meeting.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>2024NACCF/A2</b>	Provide members the links to the Aged Care Reform information and draft legislation.	Secretariat

### **Agenda Item 5      Hearing Services**

Members received an update on the Veteran Hearing Wellbeing Survey and **NOTED** the Department is anticipating to provide the survey to all clients using a partially funded or subsidised hearing device six months after receiving it. The Department **ACKNOWLEDGED** members concern for electronic versions of the survey and the need to provide alternative ways to access the survey.

Members **NOTED** the Department met with the National Acoustics Laboratory in January 2024 to discuss research on veteran hearing loss and there will be ongoing updates to inform DVA on how it can better provide devices and services. Members **NOTED** the Hearing Services consultation survey is open until 1 April 2024 and the link to engage is in the flyer provided for Item 5 - Attachment A.

### **Agenda Item 6      Veterans' and Families' Hubs**

Members **NOTED** the update provided and the work underway with Hub sites.

### **Agenda Item 7      Legislative Reform Update**

Members **NOTED** the update on Legislative Reform and the complexities to complete the exposure draft. Members **NOTED** the intent to finalise the Exposure draft imminently and enter another consultation phase, prior to progressing later in 2024.

### **Agenda Item 8      Other Business**

The TPI Federation representative raised the issue of Veteran Liaison Officers (VLO) in public hospitals and the concern that there has been no progress. Members **NOTED** DVA is contributing to the new Commonwealth State Agreement which will include VLOs.

The War Widows Australia Inc. representative raised and informed members of their concern around timeframes for payments to war widows after a veteran's death. Members **NOTED** this will be considered by the Aged and Community Care Taskforce.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>2024NACCF/A3</b>	First Assistant Secretary, Aged and Community Care Taskforce, to ensure the concern around timeframes for payments to war widows following a veteran's death is added to the Taskforce Issues Register.	Aged and Community Care Taskforce

The Returned & Services League of Australia representative raised the issue of gold card entitlements and miscommunication in the veteran community. Members **NOTED** this was discussed during the Aged Care and Community Taskforce item, and an email can be provided to members for clarification of entitlements.

**OFFICIAL**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
<b>2024NACCF/A4</b>	Email to be circulated to NACCF members to share with their organisations on Gold Card entitlements.	Aged and Community Care Taskforce

Meeting closed: 11:35am.

**Annexure A**

<b>MEMBERS/ATTENDEES</b>	
Mr Andrew Kefford PSM	Chair, Deputy Secretary, Policy & Programs, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
Ms Leanne Cameron	Deputy Chair, First Assistant Secretary, Aged & Community Care Taskforce, DVA
Mr David Pullen	First Assistant Secretary, Program Delivery, DVA
Professor Jenny Firman AM	Chief Health Officer, DVA
Mr James Benson	Assistant Secretary, Funding Operations & Analysis Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC)
Mr Malcolm McCulloch	Legacy Australia Inc
Ms Wendy Bateman	Returned & Services League of Australia
Mr Ward Gainey JP	Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia
Ms Jenny Gregory OAM	Australian War Widows Inc.
Ms Pat McCabe OAM	TPI Federation Australia
<b>PRESENTERS</b>	
Ms Elizabeth D	Director, Thin Markets Branch, DoHAC – <b>Item 4.3</b>
Ms Melanie Metz	Assistant Secretary, Legislative Reform Branch, DoHAC – <b>Item 4.4</b>
Mr Terry M	Director, Legislative Reform Branch, DoHAC – <b>Item 4.4</b>
Mr Justin Mein	A/g Assistant Secretary, Hubs, DVA – <b>Item 6</b>
Mr Luke Brown	A/g First Assistant Secretary, Royal Commission Implementation, DVA – <b>Item 7</b>
Mr Simon Hill	Assistant Secretary, Legislative Reform, DVA – <b>Item 7</b>
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
Ms Sarah Kennedy	Assistant Secretary, Aged & Community Care Taskforce, DVA – <b>Item 3</b>
Ms Karen O	Director, Aged and Community Care Taskforce, DVA – <b>Item 3</b>
Mr Danny R	Assistant Director, Aged Care Payments & Stakeholders Relations Team, DoHAC – <b>Item 4.1</b>
Ms Cath H	Assistant Director, Engagement Section, Legislative Reform Branch, DoHAC – <b>Item 4.4</b>
<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	
Ms Morgan S	A/g Assistant Director, International & Stakeholder Relations, DVA
Ms Karen G	Senior Secretariat Officer, International & Stakeholder Relations, DVA
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM	Repatriation Commissioner
Mr Michael Benyk	Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Ms Raelene Hill	Partners of Veterans Association of Australian Inc.