



Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Firefighters – Factsheet

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 will give effect to changes recommended in the interim report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. At a broad level, the Bill proposes that, from 1 July 2026, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) will be closed to new claims and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) will apply to all new compensation claims.

To view the exposure draft of the Bill and supporting documents please visit:

www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation.

An important part of the proposed new scheme are 'grandparenting' provisions which will operate to ensure that any entitlements being received under the VEA and/or DRCA immediately before 1 July 2026 will continue to be paid. They will also continue to be indexed as normal.

DVA notes that, in September 2021, a support scheme was established for ADF personnel who participated in fire training at the Royal Australian Air Force Base Point Cook Fire Training School between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986. The Scheme provides eligible personnel with: simplified access to compensation and treatment for a list of 31 specified conditions under the DRCA; access to screening services for colorectal cancer and melanoma, for early detection and prevention; and individually tailored lifestyle advice under the 12-month Heart Health Program.

The Bill ensures that access to these arrangements will continue to be available for eligible veterans from 1 July 2026.

How will this affect me?

If you were a fire fighter in the ADF at RAAF Base Point Cook Fire Training School between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 you will continue to be covered under the scheme.

Date of effect?

Ongoing from 1 July 2026.