



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

Education Scheme – Factsheet

DVA's education schemes provide eligible dependants of certain veterans with financial assistance and student support services, and can arrange for guidance and counselling to help them achieve their highest potential in full-time education or career training.

Under current arrangements, a young dependent of a veteran (which is generally someone who is under 16 years old or who is between 16 and 25 and undertaking full-time education, including apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships) is eligible under either the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) or the MRCA Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS).

Certain dependants of veterans eligible under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) can obtain guidance and counselling, but they do not have coverage for most benefits accessible under the education schemes.

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 has been prepared in support of changes which are proposed to DVA's current (tri-Act) framework of legislation. These changes would see the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the DRCA closed to new claims from 1 July 2026 and all new claims from veterans would be determined under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

Under the 'single ongoing Act' model, access to the MRCAETS will be extended to the eligible dependants of VEA and DRCA veterans. VEA dependants who would already be eligible under the VCES will become eligible under the MRCAETS from 1 July 2026, as the single ongoing education scheme.

Eligible dependants of DRCA veterans will have access to the MRCAETS subject to meeting the necessary requirements under the MRCA.

How will this affect me?

Young dependants of DRCA veterans will have a pathway opened to them to receive benefits under the MRCAETS.

Dependants in receipt of VCES will be transitioned over to the MRCAETS.

Date of effect?

Ongoing from 1 July 2026.