



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

---

# Single Review Pathway – 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](http://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation).

The Bill also proposes a number of 'improvements' to the MRCA. One of these is an expansion of review powers under the Act. More specifically, the Bill would simplify review processes for veterans and their families under the single-ongoing Act model by providing the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) with jurisdiction to review decisions made in connection with claims under the DRCA.

As a first step, the proposal would remove the DRCA's internal (DVA) reconsideration process for veterans. In its place, an additional screening process, similar to the MRCA and VEA, would be made available. This process would act as preliminary assessment of whether the Repatriation Commission should exercise its discretion to review the original decision(s) prior to consideration by the VRB.

This will ensure harmonisation of the current DRCA review pathway with the VEA and the MRCA for periods immediately before and after commencement of the single-ongoing Act model. If dissatisfied with the VRB's decision, veterans may then apply to have the matter heard by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Subject to Government Agreement, the changes would commence 60 days following Royal Assent of the Bill.

### How will this affect me?

As noted above, the VRB would be introduced as the first stage of merits review under the DRCA, meaning any requests for review of DVA decisions lodged on or after commencement of the changes would be subject to the modified review path.

### Date of effect?

60 days following Royal Assent of the Bill.