



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

Travel for Treatment – Factsheet

If agreed to by Government, the changes would see the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) closed to new claims from 1 July 2026 and all claims from veterans and their families determined under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

Under current arrangements, DVA provides eligible veterans, Gold Card holders and authorised personal attendants with access to transport and reimbursement costs associated with seeking treatment. Veterans can also claim entitlements related to the use of a private vehicle, public transport, community transport, vehicle ferries, parking and road tolls, for the purposes of obtaining approved medical treatment, to attend rehabilitation or to attend a medical examination in relation to a compensation claim.

Travel expenses may also be reimbursed for accommodation and meal allowances for veterans and authorised personal attendants if the veteran needs assistance to travel.

Although travel for treatment is available under all three Acts, the eligibility criteria and level of entitlement that is payable is variable depending on the legislation the veteran falls under.

From 1 July 2026, all travel for treatment reimbursement claims will be considered under the MRCA, providing greater clarity of entitlements for veterans and their families.

The 50 kilometre round-trip minimum distance requirements are also being removed and payment for all veterans will be paid at the higher (MRCA) rate.

Veterans accessing travel via 'Booked Car With Driver' arrangements will still be able to do so under the proposed changes.

How will this affect me?

Under the single ongoing Act, travel in a private vehicle will be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.68/km for all eligible treatment card holders. This is a higher rate than is currently payable under the VEA.

Who will benefit?

Veterans claiming travel for treatment under the MRCA will benefit from rates which are higher than the VEA.

As noted above, travel via the Department's 'Booked Car With Driver' services will still be available for eligible veterans under the single-ongoing Act model.

Date of effect?

Ongoing from 1 July 2026.