



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

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# Veterans' Healthcare Cards 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)

### Treatment Access

Treatment under the MRCA is accessed via the use of either White or Gold Veterans' Healthcare Cards.

Veterans' White Cards provide treatment for specified conditions, whereas Veterans' Gold Cards provide holders access to clinically required treatment for all medical conditions at Commonwealth expense.

Under the MRCA, a Gold Card is available to veterans (including reservists and cadets) where they:

- have a permanent impairment of at least 60 points from service-related injuries or diseases; or
- are eligible for the Special Rate Disability Pension under the Act.

Gold Cards are also available to the dependants of deceased veterans, including wholly dependent partners, eligible young persons and certain 'other' categories of dependants.

Gold Cards are not currently available to veterans or dependants under the DRCA.

## How will this affect me?

If you are a veteran with high levels of impairment under the DRCA, you may become eligible for the veteran Gold Card, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria under the MRCA.

If you are a dependent of a deceased DRCA veteran with a claim lodged after commencement, you may become eligible for a Gold Card. DRCA dependents who have previously received compensation under the DRCA will not receive a Gold Card retrospectively.

There will be no change to how treatment is provided for veterans with either White or Gold Veterans' Healthcare cards.

## Who will benefit?

DRCA veterans with high levels of impairment may, for the first time, be able to access a MRCA Gold Card under new arrangements. They will, however, require acceptance of a new claim for initial liability under the Act from 1 July 2026 or for a previous impairment to have worsened by at least five impairment points as a trigger for eligibility/assessment under the MRCA.

## Date of effect?

Ongoing from 1 July 2026