



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

Impacts on TPI eligibility – Factsheet

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 introduces changes to remove complexity associated with the current (tri-Act) compensation arrangements which apply for veterans and their families. If agreed to by Government, the Bill would result in the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) being closed to new claims and coverage for all veterans would be provided under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) from 1 July 2026.

This document outlines the potential impacts on those receiving Disability Compensation Payments (DCP) under the VEA at the Special (TPI) Rate under the revised arrangements.

A key feature of the proposal is the inclusion of 'grandparenting' provisions which ensure that veterans who are receiving Disability Compensation Payment (DCP) at the commencement of the single ongoing Act model will continue to do so without any disruption to their payments. The changes also ensure that these payments will continue to be indexed as usual.

Currently, dependants of veterans who receive DCP above the general rate are automatically eligible for certain compensation under the VEA when the veteran dies (including a payment for funeral benefits). There will be no change to these arrangements under the single ongoing Act model.

The model will only impact veterans if they make a claim after the commencement date, as any new claim will be assessed and paid under the MRCA. This includes claims for additional compensation (such as permanent impairment and incapacity payments).

As the VEA and DRCA are effectively being closed from 1 July 2026, there will be no new grants of DCP for claims lodged, including TPI, after this date. If you are currently receiving a general rate of DCP and are concerned about ceasing work in the future, there will be other benefits available to you under the MRCA. Incapacity Payments can compensate you for loss of earnings due to service-related conditions if you are still of working age. There is also the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) which is modelled on the VEA TPI payment but with some differences in the way payments are calculated.

How will this affect me?

As noted above, payments under the new arrangements will not change for veterans currently receiving DCP under the VEA and any payments being received will continue to be indexed via grandparenting arrangements.

There will also be opportunity for dependants to claim MRCA death compensation when the new arrangements commence. Under the MRCA, death compensation is payable in respect of veterans who meet certain criteria, for example if they died from a service-related injury or disease.

The single ongoing Act model will only impact future compensation and rehabilitation claims. Income Support claims, including Service Pension, will continue to be determined under the VEA. There will also be no reduction or cessation of other services currently provided by DVA. You will still be able to access rehabilitation appliances, travel assistance and Veterans Home Care.

Who will benefit?

Veterans who are receiving TPI payments when the new model commences will continue to receive these payments. Their dependants will also retain eligibility for the automatic granting of compensation under the VEA in the event of the veteran's death.

After commencement, the dependants of deceased TPI veterans may also choose to claim under the MRCA if the veteran's death was related to their service. Subject to the acceptance of a claim, dependants would be eligible for the higher rates of compensation and funeral benefits available under the MRCA.

Veterans under age pension age who are unable to work due to their accepted conditions may also become eligible for incapacity payments (based on lost income levels) or SRDP under the MRCA. This will particularly benefit veterans who have previously been found ineligible for TPI as they have not met the 'alone test' under the VEA (there is no equivalent test under the MRCA for incapacity payments or SRDP).

There will also be improvements to certain services under the MRCA. The rates for travel reimbursements will be increased and access to Household Services and Attendant Care arrangements (and rates) will be expanded to VEA veterans under the MRCA for the first time.

Date of effect?

Ongoing from 1 July 2026.