



Wednesday 15 May 2024

Location:	Hobart and Launceston – Tasmania
Time:	2– 3pm

DVA Participants

Luke Brown	First Assistant Secretary Policy, Deputy Commissioner Tas (Chair)
Anne James	Executive Officer – Scribe

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Mark Green	DPAC
LTCOL Neil Grierson	SADFO
Deb Coulson	RAAF-A (Proxy)
Ray Williams OAM	TPI Assn
Barry Quinn	RSL Tasmania
Nic Di Martino	Mates4Mates (Proxy)
Brian Ellis	NAA- A (TAS)
BRIG John Withers	VRG
Kevin Evorall	Launceston Legacy

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Peter Hodge	Legacy Hobart
Jacinta Leahy	PVA
Brian Harper	VVAA
Elaine Devlin	Open Arms
David Waddle OAM	Advocacy

Meeting chaired in Hobart and conducted via Teams in Northern Tasmania.

Apologies noted. Chair, Luke Brown welcomed Nic Di Martino representing Mates4 Mates.

Luke Brown opened the meeting. The ESO Budget Brief (attached below) was discussed.



240515 DVA Budget
2024-25 Presentatio

Discussion & questions

- Luke Brown, advised that this is a good budget overall with increases in Departmental and Administered funding. He provided an explanation for each of the presentation slides and a general overview.

Slide 6. Extension of the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program

Barry Quinn queried if the figure of 22 000 more veterans to benefit would be new claimants? He was advised that it is anticipated that 22 000 new clients will benefit from commencing treatment for the PAMT conditions under DRCA and MRCA. The full list of PAMT conditions is available at:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support-pamt>

Slide 8. Extension to Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program

Barry Quinn asked how many nominations have been received for this training program and were any from Tasmania?

DVA does not have the personal details of those who have applied for and fulfilled the posts as this is managed by RANZCP.

Background: The Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program (MVPTP) is being delivered through a one-off non-competitive grant to the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP).

- MVPTP posts are only open to current RANZCP trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) on the pathway to RANZCP Fellowship. DVA
- The grant provides funding for up to 10 military and veteran psychiatry registrar-training posts each year, plus a series of special support projects.
- Training posts consist of two, six monthly rotations per year, August to January and February to July.
- The funding is via a Grant Agreement with the RANZCP
- The grant funding is allocated to:
 - salary support for registrars completing a rotation in the MVPTP;
 - loading for posts in the private sector and rural locations;
 - grant administration and operating costs; and
 - support projects to enhance the registrar's educational and vocational knowledge of veteran and military mental health.

The RANZCP website [Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program | RANZCP](#) provides basic information on the grant, including Salary Support, eligibility into a post etc.

Slide 9. Tackling Veteran Homelessness

John Withers asked if this includes the funding RSL Tasmania have recently received?

Barry Quinn advised that the Hub funding is separate to other grant funding they have received or requested.

Mark Green asked if the grant process for this funding was a targeted or open process?

Luke Brown advised that it will be an open process.

Cross portfolio measures

Slide 16. Increase Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients.

When will the increase become effective? Date of effect will be the September 2024 indexation.

<https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/14651>

Slide 17. Wellbeing approach to the Veteran Hearing Service Offered

Ray Williams asked how difficult the new process will be. Luke advised that it will be a streamlined process based on the Veterans need. If that is not the experience of Veterans please let Luke or Anne know.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/health-services/hearing-services>

General Discussion

Neil Grierson requested that a breakdown of the figures be provided as the figures on the slides and during the discussion, and on *Budget at a Glance* do not add up to the \$447 million as the Media release announced. [minister.dva.gov.au/joint-media-release](https://www.dva.gov.au/joint-media-release)

<https://www.dva.gov.au/budget-at-a-glance-2024-25.pdf>

John Withers requested soft copies of the presentation, fact sheets etc. These and links will be included within the Minutes.

Barry Quin, on behalf of RSL TAS, thanked all of the organisations involved in ANZAC Day 2024 Commemorations. An increase in attendee numbers was noted and is appreciated.

Open Arms were unable to attend the forum but provided the following information:

- Open Arms is piloting a **new Stress Resilience and Functioning (SRF) program for veterans** - an additional support to veterans and families in Tasmania. The SRF is a skills based program aimed at improving interpersonal functioning through emotional regulation and reflection skills.
- It is the first Open Arms program in Tasmania to be led by a lived experience veteran peer, enabling greater connection with participants through shared experienced and understanding of the impact of military service and mental health recovery. The program was developed by Dr Jon Lane who has over 30 years' experience in the Australian Army, is a Senior Psychiatrist with DVA and Assoc. Professor at the School of Medicine UTAS.
- The first 8 week SRF program commenced in Hobart on 30 April, with the intention to deliver programs in Burnie (July) and Launceston (September). Further programs will be rolled out to meet demand. Veterans interested in the Stress Resilience and Functioning Program can self-refer by emailing OPENARMS.TASMANIA@dva.gov.au noting their interest (flyer attached).
- The first 8 week SRF program commenced in Hobart on 30 April, with the intention to deliver programs in Burnie (July) and Launceston (September). Further programs will be rolled out to meet demand. Veterans interested in the Stress Resilience and Functioning Program can self-refer by emailing OPENARMS.TASMANIA@dva.gov.au noting their interest (flyer below).
- A skills based parallel program for families is also being developed to support families impacted by service and is expected to be piloted in the coming months. **Partners interested in participating in the families' pilot are invited to contact OPENARMS.TASMANIA@dva.gov.au to note their interest.**



Stress Relaxation
and Functioning Prc

Luke advised that this program has been very well received and aims to bridge some of the gaps we experience in Tasmania.

Luke Brown advised the participants that Anne James has advised of her intention to retire following a period of Long Service Leave and thanked her for the support she has provided to Luke, DVA and the Veteran Community. Attendees thanked Anne with a round of applause.

DVA fact sheets pertinent to the Budget are available at [dva.gov.au/budget-2024-25](https://www.dva.gov.au/budget-2024-25)
<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/budget2024-25-reform-of-veterans-compensation-legislation.pdf>

<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/budget2024-25-additional-resourcing-to-support-service-delivery.pdf>

<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/budget2024-25-continuing-veterans-access-to-health-and-support.pdf>

<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/budget2024-25-commonwealth-war-graves-commission.pdf>

Health fact sheets are available at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/budget-2024-25>

Social Services fact sheets are available at <https://www.dss.gov.au/budget-2024-25>

Meeting ended at 3pm. Next DCCF is scheduled for Wed 14 Aug 2024 at 2pm

Action Items:

- Obtain a breakdown of the Budget figures that explains the \$477 million as per the Media release.

Response: In response to the query from LTCOL Grierson, please find below the breakdown of the \$477 million as provided in the [Joint media release: Supporting Australia's veterans and their families](#), dated 14 May 2024:

2024-25 Budget - DVA Measures	
Measure Name	Total Forward Est \$m
Continuing Veterans' Access to Health and Support Programs¹	59.6
Department of Veterans' Affairs – additional resourcing to support service delivery	194.4
Reform of Veterans' Compensation Legislation	222
Commonwealth War Graves Commission – additional funding	1.2
Other measures with costs to be met within DVA	
Total of DVA Measures	477

1. Measure includes \$48.4m additional funding provided to Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing Program

2. More details of these measures can be found at

www.dva.gov.au/what-can-i-access/corporate-information-access/budgets/budget-2024-25