

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern

I am submitting my views based on my experience In various rolls connected with Veterans

1. As a war widow of an AATTV veteran with PTSD,
2. As a daughter of WW2 veteran,
3. As a grand daughter of WW1 veteran, and
4. As a former RSL/ DVA trained Advocate, plus
5. As the former Qld Small Business Training Provider to those retiring veterans seeking to re-establish themselves in Civy Street ([REDACTED])
In my role, I assiste many retired veterans in gaining Industry Training ([REDACTED]) employment by
Assisting veterans to identify their skills when seeking employment
6. As the former Qld President of the ([REDACTED]), making the Industry aware of the training skills
retiring Veterans brought to facilitating the Australian Training Reform

My recommendation is:-

All personnel who serve in a war zone as peacekeepers or training advisors or long-range defence weaponry, automatically become entitled to a Gold Card during and after service

NOTE: claiming a disability pension would not change.

My reasoning is:-

Simply having been issued a Gold Card may help to reduce a veterans sense of failure & lack of self worth, denying experiencing symptoms of PSTD, as is often the case. Often it is the wife who is more aware of these early signs in sleep pattern nightmares, nightmares and cold sweats and behavioural changes.

Over time thecombined service organisation culture may change, where it is expected the Veteran will seek immediate help (in the field or later), saving lives lost to suicide.

Reducing financial constraints in seeking medical assistance in a timely manner.

The benefits in seeking early medical intervention is well known, and includes reduced stress experienced by the veteran & the family.

No good outcomes come from DVA systemic delays.

With a Gold Card, the veteran and his Doctor can work in a timely manner, retaining the Veteran's dignity and the holistic well-being of the family. Veterans, by their very nature, rarely consider they need medical assistance and are not likely to make a claim that is disingenuous.

Isolated cases would cost less than the current system and would be noted as “out of the normative compilation of data collected” from all medical claims.

The records retained by DVA would facilitate longitudinal research

DVA will only focus on disability claims based on the premise that...” It is more likely than not, given medical

advice, “ the claim is genuine unless anomalies exist.

I am grateful for the extra benefits I receive as a war widow, and find some irony, that my late husband did not feel as “valued” during his retirement, as I do as his widow! He felt a failure as a soldier to have given in to PTSD!

The Gold Card is more than medical assistance, it has become a validation of the contribution of service.

Perhaps over time, this will change, and a Gold Card will be linked to an employment package, along with university entry, as a draw card to those seeking a career in service to their Nation.

God knows, Australia needs to attract more university-trained personnel into our armed forces and technological wizards to design defence systems and whatever AI brings to future warfare design.

I remain sincerely yours

Janet

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Sent from my iPhone