**Defence/DVA Executive Committee (DDEC) - Meeting Summary – 29 February 2024**

The meeting was held at Russell Offices (Defence).

Meeting Attendees:

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| Members | |
| Mr Greg Moriarty | Secretary, Department of Defence |
| General Angus Campbell AO, DSC | Chief of the Defence Force |
| Ms Alison Frame | Secretary, Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| Ms Justine Greig | Deputy Secretary Defence People Department of Defence |
| Mr Matt Yannopoulos PSM | Associate Secretary Department of Defence |
| Ms Kate Pope PSM | Deputy President  Repatriation Commission  Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| LTGEN Natasha Fox | Chief of Personnel  Department of Defence |
| Mr Andrew Kefford PSM | Deputy Secretary, Policy & Programs  Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| Ms Alison McLaren | Deputy Secretary Veteran, Family & Stakeholder Experience  Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| Observers | |
| AIRCDRE Kaarin Kooij CSC | Director General Joint Transition Authority  Department of Defence |
| MAJGEN Wade Stothart DSC, AM, CSC | Head People Capability  Department of Defence |
| Secretariat | |
| Ms Liane Pettitt | A/g First Assistant Secretary, Ministerial, Engagement & Communications  Department of Veterans’ Affairs |

**Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Secretary Frame opened the meeting noting the recent release of the exposure draft and explanatory memorandum of the Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill.

Members **NOTED** the meeting was deferred from December 2023.

**Agenda Item 2 – Governance**

2.1 Memorandum of Understanding and Schedules

Members **NOTED** the status of updates to the MoU & Schedule, acknowledging that Schedules may require further updating after release of the Royal Commission Final Report.

**Agenda Item 3 – Partnerships**

3.1 Joint Defence and Veterans Mental Health Strategy Update

Members **NOTED** that the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy was out for public consultation. Members **DISCUSSED** the need to consider the Royal Commission recommendations when finalising the Strategy.

3.2 Defence and Veteran Family Wellbeing Strategy Update

Members **NOTED** the above considerations should be taken into account for the Defence and Veteran Family Wellbeing Strategy.

**Agenda Item 4 – Defence/DVA Data Sharing**

4.1 Defence/DVA Data Sharing

Members **DISCUSSED** the opportunities for enhanced data and information sharing including:

* DVA engaging Barry Sandison to strengthen data capability in the department;
* The provision of pre-early engagement data from Defence to DVA; and
* The current approaches in DVA and Defence to manage consent to share data.

4.2 Defence/DVA Links Steering Committee (DLSC) report back to DDEC

Members **NOTED** the report on meetings of the DLSC.

4.3 Claims Processing JP2060

Members **noted** Defence and DVA have been actively engaged throughout the project and **DISCUSSED** the actions required to ensure the seamless delivery of medical information to support claims processing through the JP2060 project.

**Agenda Item 5 – Transition**

5.1 Transition Services and Support Survey 2034

Members **NOTED** the completion of the survey.

5.2 Veteran Employment Campaign

Members **NOTED** the activity underway to develop the Veteran Employment Campaign, due for launch in April 2024.

5.3 JTA Annual Progress Report

Members **NOTED** the Joint Transition Authority Annual Progress Report.

5.4 Veteran Transition Strategy

Members **NOTED** the update on the Veteran Transition Strategy.

**Agenda Item 6 – Commemorations External Review**

Members **NOTED** that DVA is undertaking an independent review of Anzac Day commemorative services conducted in France and Türkiye to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Members also **NOTED** DVA is preparing a proposed Commemorative Strategy for 2024-2028 that will expand opportunities to support commemorative activities to include veterans and families.

Members **NOTED** the update on the Commemorations External Review and proposed commemorative strategy for 2024 -2028.

Members **NOTED** the impending 25th Anniversary of INTERFET operations, and the outline of planned commemorative activities.

**Agenda Item 7 – Compensation Claims**

Members **DISCUSED** DVA’s progress on clearing the backlog of compensation claims, **NOTING** the positive impact of additional resourcing and implementation of streamlined processing.

**Agenda Item 8 – Other Business**

No matters were raised.

Meeting concluded 2.30pm