

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

The meeting was held at Russell Offices (Defence).

Meeting Attendees:

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 **DISCUSSED** 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