

Defence/DVA Executive Committee (DDEC) - Meeting Summary - 10 October 2024

The meeting was held at Russell Offices (Defence).

Meeting Attendees:

Department of Defence	
Mr Greg Moriarty	Secretary, Department of Defence
Admiral David Johnston AC RAN	Chief of the Defence Force
Mr Matt Yannopoulos PSM	Associate Secretary
LTGEN Natasha Fox AO CSC	Chief of Personnel
Ms Justine Greig PSM	Deputy Secretary Defence People
Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	
Ms Alison Frame	Secretary DVA
Ms Alison McLaren	A/g Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Secretary
Mr Mark Brewer AM CSC and Bar	A/g Deputy President Repatriation Commission
Ms Leanne Cameron	A/g Deputy Secretary Veteran Family & Stakeholder Experience
Mr Andrew Kefford PSM	Deputy Secretary Policy & Programs
Mr Kahlii Fegan DSC AM	Repatriation Commissioner, Repatriation Commission
Observers	
MAJGEN Wade Stothart DSC, AM, CSC	Head Military Personnel Department of Defence
Ms Paula Goodwin	First Assistant Secretary Ministerial Engagement & Communications DVA
Secretariat	
Ms Monica Vella (proxy)	A/g Director General Joint Transition Authority Department of Defence
Apologies	
AIRCDRE Kaarin Kooij CSC	Director General Joint Transition Authority Defence

Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks and Introductions

Mr Moriarty led introductions and opening remarks.

Agenda Item 2 – Recommendations of the Royal Commission

Mr Moriarty and Ms Frame led a discussion on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (RCDVS) Final Report and its recommendations. It was agreed there should be a focus on co-design. Sequencing of activities was important, and legislative changes would be required for some of the recommendations.

Both departments agreed to work closely together on the progress of the RCDVS recommendations.

Agenda Item 3 – Governance – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) & Schedules

Led by LTGEN Fox. It was noted that there were 11 active schedules, of which 8 required updating. Outdated schedules would be updated and presented to the Defence Links Steering Committee for endorsement.

Schedule 6 (the agreement between Defence and DVA for the Provision of Mental Health Support Services by VVCS to the ADF) required a complete rewrite to enable Defence referral to Open Arms for garrison health services, transition support services and family support services.

Agenda Item 4 - Partnerships

A number of strategies and action plans had been finalised and were with Ministers for their consideration. The Adaptive Sport inquiry response to the Senate was close to completion.

The DDEC members noted that the timing of release of multiple strategies required consideration. An underpinning narrative was needed and would likely focus on the RCDVS.

Agenda Item 5 – Defence/DVA Data Sharing – Data Sharing and Analytics Solution (DSAS) Consent Campaign

Ms Frame led the discussion on the importance of data sharing to maintain integrity in the claims process. Data sharing would assist both departments with duty of care obligations, especially to vulnerable members. Data sharing would assist both Departments with duty of care obligations.

The DSAS system build had been finalised, along with a set of metrics for research for the veterans' longitudinal wellbeing study. Legislative change for 'opt-out' to facilitate the research was being sought. If agreed, this would be the first step in meeting Rec 107 of the RCDVS recommendations.

JP2060 User Acceptance Testing concerns would be mitigated with a soft launch in December 2024, providing additional time for testing.

Agenda Item 6 – Commemorations Review – Timor 25

The Timor 25 National Commemorative Service attracted 510 in-person attendees. It was broadcast by the ABC with a 35,000 viewership. Ms Frame noted DVA was considering options for a small investment in Timor Leste which may encourage veterans to return to Timor Leste.

Conversely, The Pathway to Peace and Solidarity seminar was not well attended. An After Action Report would be conducted and include suggested improvements to event communication.

Agenda Item 7 – Joint Transition Authority Update

DDEC members noted that the Veteran Electronic Information Exchange (VEIE) Data Management Agreement was signed on 07 August 2024.

The Future Transition Operating Model (FTOM) did not reduce the amount of Transition Centres around the country. It does include a tiered support model so that separating/transferring members receive tailored supports appropriate to their needs. The FTOM is the initial step toward addressing RCDVS concerns around duplication of effort and complexity in the transition system. Phase One is underway across three ADF Transition Centres.

Mr Fegan reflected positively on his engagement with the Joint Transition Authority as the Repatriation Commissioner.

Other Business

Mr Fegan noted that the RSL was leading a study on the impact of service in the Middle East Area of Operations, including for families.

Meeting closed 1025h.