

Department of Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs
Links Steering Committee

Summary of Meeting – 28 November 2024

The 69th meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Thursday 28 November 2024. The following Policy, Programs and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

Strategy

Members were briefed on the Women Veterans' Strategy. Women veterans face unique challenges and experiences when transitioning from the ADF. The Women Veterans Strategy will be tailored to address the unique socio-economic, health and wellbeing needs of Women Veterans and ensure DVA services meet these needs. It will be developed in partnership with experts across sectors and ensure women veteran's experiences and voices are centred throughout the process.

Members also discussed the Defence and Veteran Family Wellbeing, Defence – Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the Veteran Transition Strategies. Discussion centred on strategic alignment between Defence and DVA, and effective linking of strategy outcomes to the business operations of both Departments. Members discussed the underlying data measures required to inform each strategy and agreed to continue work to implement effective data modelling which will drive wellbeing base monitoring, evaluation and reporting against the Strategies.

Governance

Members reviewed and discussed existing inter-Departmental agreements and data reporting that will support the transition system in light of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report and its recommendations. DLSC members agreed to a cross-agency working group to confirm the baseline data required to inform transition system effectiveness, including identifying gaps in existing data and opportunities for additional metrics. An update on progress will be provided to the third DLSC meeting in 2025.

Other Business

Members were provided with updates on key transition enablers including a summary of the 2024 Prime Minister's National Veteran Employment Awards, held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 in Canberra; the Transition Medical Assessment Pilot Project; DVA's approach to market for the 'Establishment and operation of a Veteran and Family Learning and Innovation Network of Knowledge' (VF-LINK), and progression of the Veterans' and Families' Hubs (Hubs) who deliver integrated support to veterans and families and improve access to local services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services.