

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

Summary of Meeting – 21 March 2025

The 70th meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Friday 21 March 2025. The following Policy, Programs and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

Strategy

Members were briefed on the continuing work of DVA Transition Branch across a broad range of policy, program and service delivery activities to improve the transition experience of veteran and families. This includes supporting the implementation of the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The branch is supporting the consultation with the veteran community to co design a new agency focussed on veteran wellbeing.

Other key activities include implementing the Veteran Transition Action Plan, research to inform transition program and policy improvements and preparing for the future, supporting veteran civilian employment, and the Veteran Support Office delivering support and education on DVA services to transitioning veterans and families.

Members were provided with an update on the progress of DVA's implementation of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This included advice of the commencement of consultation and co-design for an agency focused on veteran wellbeing within DVA, and consultation on the establishment of a national peak body for Ex-Service Organisations.

Other Business

Members were provided with an update on the Veterans' and Families' Hubs (Hubs) deliver integrated support to veterans and families and improve access to local services which may include wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services. There are now eight established hubs delivering support to veterans and families in Perth, Townsville, Adelaide, Darwin, Wodonga, Nowra, Caboolture and Burnie.

In addition to the work already underway to establish an additional hub and spoke model in Tasmania, eight new Hubs are being established in Southwest Perth, Northern Adelaide, Ipswich, Queanbeyan, the Hawkesbury region, the Hunter region, the Tweed/North Coast region, and the Surf Coast/Geelong region.

The expansion of the Hubs Program is progressing well, funded through multiple year, milestone-based grant agreements.

Members were provided updates from Defence. The updates included Defence's current recruitment status, advice on the roll out of a new Health Knowledge Management System, detail across the Veteran Electronic Information Exchange and transition assurance.

Members received a presentation from the Australian Government Actuary on trends observed across the valuations of the Military Compensation Scheme and the Defence Super Scheme.