Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Defence / DVA Links Steering Committee

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**Summary of Meeting – 20 March 2015**

The 33rd Defence/Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 20 March 2015. The following matters were discussed at the meeting:

**Support Continuum Performance Report**

* The Committee reviewed the December 2015 Support Continuum Performance Report. There was general discussion regarding ADF member engagement options by the two Departments, reporting mechanisms and the governance of the Memorandum of Understanding between Defence and DVA for the Cooperative Delivery of Care and Support to Eligible Persons.

**Information Management Working Group (IMWG) Report**

* The Committee was provided with a report on the meeting of the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) which was held on 10 February 2015. The report provided the Committee with updates on the initiatives and strategies relating to work being undertaken to improve the data access and information exchange arrangements between the two Departments.

**Report from the Health Consultative Forum**

* The Committee discussed the report which included details of the Ministerial launch of the High Res mobile application, an important piece of collaborative work between the two Departments, and the issues raised at the recent Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans’ Mental Health.

**ForceNet**

* The Committee was updated on the ForceNet portal, a social-network-enabled web portal developed within Defence that supports both professional and social interaction via PCs, tablets and mobile telephones.

**Defence Links Research Working Group Report**

* The Committee was updated on the progress of: the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme, Mothers in Middle East Area OF Operations Study and the MRCA Rehabilitation Long Term Study.

**Veterans’ Employment Assistance Initiative**

* The Committee was updated on the progress of the initiative and the evaluation of the pilot and noted an increase of participants.

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Report on Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured in Operations**

* The Committee reviewed a progress report on the status of Recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee

**Progress on the MRCA Review Implementation Education Program Planning**

* The Committee were updated on the MRCA Review Implementation Education Program Planning which is mostly complete with a YouTube video, separating members’ letters and articles to various ex-service organisations’ publications.

**Ongoing Business**

* The next DLSC meeting is scheduled for 21 August 2015.