Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Defence / DVA Links Steering Committee

**Summary of Meeting – 10 September 2013**

The 28th Defence/Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 10 September 2013. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

**Key Performance Indicators and Support Continuum Performance Report**

* The committee received the latest report from the Support Continuum Performance system and noted 30 of the 31 recommendations from the first phase of the review of the Support for Wounded, Injured or Ill Program (SWIIP) have been completed.

**Defence Links Information Management Working Group**

* The committee agreed to the establishment of an Information Management Working Group (IMWG) to advise the DLSC on information technology related issues and aim to improve information exchange, access and sharing between Defence and DVA. Membership of the group will comprise representatives from the business and information technology areas in both departments.

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Report on the Care of Australian Defence Force Personnel Wounded and Injured on Operations**

* On 24 June 2013 the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade tabled its Report on the Care of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Personnel Wounded and Injured on Operations.
* The committee received an update on the report which contains 25 recommendations that are aimed at ensuring a comprehensive rehabilitation process for personnel; that mental health issues are fully understood and reported; that families are recognised as being important; and that communication and co-ordination between agencies are optimised.
* Defence and DVA have prepared a response to the report which will be taken up with the incoming Government.

**Defence Links Research Advisory Committee**

* The committee agreed to the establishment of a Defence Links Research Advisory Committee. The aim of the committee will be to advise the newly created DVA Research Board on the development of research projects with a joint Defence and DVA component.

**Ongoing Updates and Other Issues**

* The committee heard updates on general health issues; the Joint eHealth Data and Information Project; the review of the Stepping Out Program; and a proposal for Australian participation in ADF-led adaptive sport activities.
* The committee received an update on the Review of the National Consultative Framework and agreed the National Consultative Framework is to continue as the appropriate forum for continuing communication between the major ex-service organisations.

The next meeting will be held in November 2013.