**Minutes**

**Agenda Item 1 Welcome, apologies, conflicts of interest and Action Items**

The Chair opened the meeting acknowledging country, veterans and current serving Australian Defence Force Personnel. Members **NOTED** apologies as listed at Annexure A and no conflicts of interest were raised.

Members **NOTED** the Minutes from the previous meeting on 21 February 2025 were endorsed out of session and published on the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) website.

Members **AGREED** to close action items 2025OWP/A01, A02, A04, A05, A06, A07, A08, A09, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15 and A16.

**Agenda Item 2 Legislative Reform Transition Process Update**

Members **NOTED** the presentation on the Veterans’ legislation reform.

Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** two training streams are being developed for release by September 2025: modular updates for current advocates and an updated course in Military Advocacy for new advocates.

Members **DISCUSSED** proposed training modules and the value of scenario-based learning tools. Members **AGREED** to liaise with their cohorts and provide consolidated feedback by 24 July 2025 on:

* additional training modules
* topics requiring further public education and explanation
* identified mis or dis-information about the new arrangements to facilitate publication of corrections
* preferred approach for engaging OWP members in the CLIK refresh project

Members **DISCUSSED** the overhaul of the CLIK policy library to align with the new Act. Members discussed their preferred option to review CLIK content and **AGREED** to include this as a standing agenda item until the conclusion of the project.

Members **DISCUSSED** incorrect social media commentary regarding Schedule 9 of the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025* and the Defence Veterans Service Commission, particularly claims relating to pension cuts. The Chair **AGREED** to provide members with a rebuttal document to assist them to clarify information.

Members **PROPOSED** DVA consider producing and distributing information to ESO Advocates to summarise key changes to claims processing and updates to dispel persistent misinterpretations of the Claims Assessment Process.

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| **Action Item and Description** | **Responsible** |
| 2025OWP/A17 – Members to provide feedback on proposed training modules (including any additions) by 24 July 2025 to OWP Secretariat. | OWP Members & Secretariat |
| 2025OWP/A18 – CLIK upgrade engagement to be added as a standing OWP agenda item until conclusion of project. | Secretariat |
| 2025OWP/A19 – Circulate to OWP members document to assist ESOs to rebut social media commentary regarding Schedule 9 of the *Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025*. | Secretariat |
| 2025OWP/A20 – DVA to consider producing and distributing information to ESO Advocates summarising key updates and changes to claims processing.  | Deputy Chair |

**Agenda Item 2.1 Proposed amendments to GARP M**

Members **NOTED** the presentation outlining proposed technical changes to GARP M and **ACKNOWLEDGED** the methodology aims to streamline assessments and increase beneficial outcomes for veterans.

Members **AGREED** to liaise with their cohorts and provide consolidated feedback on the proposed GARP M changes and methodologies by 24 July 2025.

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| **Action Item and Description** | **Responsible** |
| 2025OWP/A21 – Members to provide feedback on proposed GARP M technical changes and methodologies by 24 July 2025 to OWP Secretariat. | OWP Members & Secretariat |

**Agenda Item 2.2 Approach to Presumptive Liability**

Members **NOTED** the presentation on presumptive liability arrangements and **ACKNOWLEDGED** government has determined an initial list of conditions and that any future additions will be legislated as needed.

Members **AGREED** to liaise with their cohorts and provide consolidated feedback on the proposed presumptive liability conditions changes by 24 July 2025.

Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** DVA will maintain a register of presumptive liability conditions for future consideration.

Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia **DISCUSSED** the potential for additional conditions related to Agent Orange exposure to be added to the presumptive liability register.

Members **NOTED** insufficient time for discussion of the remainder of the agenda and **AGREED** to defer the remaining items to a future meeting.

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| **Action Item and Description** | **Responsible** |
| 2025OWP/A22 – Members to provide feedback on presumptive liability approach by 24 July 2025 to OWP Secretariat. | OWP Members & Secretariat |
| 2025OWP/A23 – Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia to submit the list of additional Agent Orange–linked conditions for consideration. | Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia |
| 2025OWP/A24 – Remaining agenda items to be held over until next OWP meeting. | Secretariat |

**Agenda Item 3 OWP Communique**

Members **AGREED** to endorse OWP Communique out-of-session.

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|  **Action Item and Description** | **Responsible** |
| 2025OWP/A25 – Members will endorse OWP Communique out-of-session. | Secretariat |

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION AND WAS DISCUSSED BY EXCEPTION**

**Agenda Item 6 Claims Processing Update**

Members **NOTED** the most recent claims reporting data as outlined in the brief.

Members **NOTED** this data is available through the DVA Claims Processing Webpage at <https://www.dva.gov.au/claim-processing>, and is updated on the 15th of every month.

**Meeting closed: 1:30 pm**

**Annexure A**

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| **Members** |
| Andrew Kefford PSM | Chair, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programs |
| Tara Cavanagh | Deputy Chair, First Assistant Secretary, Client Benefits |
| Vanessa Cheng | Air Force Association  |
| FLTLT Rod Hutchings | Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans’ Association |
| Michael Carlon JP | Australian Special Air Services Association  |
| Bob Connor | Legacy Canberra |
| Narelle Bromhead OAM | Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.  |
| Keely Dreghorn | Returned and Services League of Australia |
| Clem Russell OAM | The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation |
| Max Ball | Vietnam Veterans’ Association of Australia |
| Bill Roberts OAM JP | Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia |
| **Presenters** |
| Luke Brown | First Assistant Secretary, Policy Division |
| Jacqui Derriman | A/g Director, Customer Contact Management Project |
| **Observers** |
| Rod Henderson | CEO Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association |
| Sophie Gribbin | A/g Assistant Secretary, Benefits Policy Branch |
| **Secretariat** |
| Brad Clarke | Assistant Director, International & Stakeholder Relations |
| Julie Hackett | Senior Secretariat Officer, International & Stakeholder Relations |
| **Apologies** |
| Michael Harper | Assistant Secretary, VEA Compensation and Support |
| Jenny Gregory OAM | Australian War Widows Inc |
| John McNeill | Australian Veterans Alliance |

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**Next Meeting** – 29 August 2025 (Virtual)