

DVA HEALTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Meeting Summary 2/2016: 28 July 2016

Members participated in the DVA Health Consultative Forum's second meeting for 2016 via a videoconference meeting in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney on Thursday 28 July 2016.

Representatives from ten health associations and one ex-Service Organisation attended.

The discussion covered the following topics:

- Provider Engagement
- PMA Update
- Applied Research Program update
- DVA health data
- DVA update, including: Mental Health; Non-liability Health Care Budget Measure; Telemonitoring trial evaluation update; DVA health impacts from the 2016-17 Budget; and CVC Program.

Provider Engagement

- Forum's working groups
Noting the DVA dental and allied health review is still underway, members agreed to defer consideration of reactivating the Forum's working groups until the next meeting, 27 October 2016.
- DVA conferences
The meeting discussed DVA and members' perspectives of the value of DVA conference involvement. To assist DVA to develop its 2017 conference schedule, members will provide feedback detailing which approaches to DVA representation at health conferences are effective for their association and members.
- DVA contracted advisers
Members noted the role of DVA's clinical advisers as a framework to provide information to providers to support veterans. Clinical advisers work with treatment services, diagnostic, medico legal, early intervention, referrals, prior approvals and initial liability claims. Members will be sent information on how to access the Clinical Advice Management channel.

DVA PMA Update

The Principal Medical Adviser provided an update to members on a range of medical issues impacting on DVA clients and the ways in which he advises the Department regarding client access to appropriate clinical services.

DVA Applied Research Programme Update

DVA provided members with a brief update on research activities since the previous meeting, including: Transition and Wellbeing Research Program; investigating issues related to Defence firefighters; cancer incidence in aircraft personnel; VVCS - Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service evaluation; and considering the feasibility of a study into pain.

Members were invited to provide suggestions to scope the pain study, as well as research topics of interest for DVA consideration.

DVA health data

DVA staff discussed data availability and limitations. Members were reminded of the data publically available on the DVA website currently as well as to raise specific data needs as required.

DVA update

- Mental Health Update

Members were reminded At Ease is the online portal for DVA mental health information and resources for clients and providers, including: HighRes, for building resilience and managing stress; post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Coach app; and The Right Mix, for alcohol use. <http://at-ease.dva.gov.au/professionals/professional-development/>

Members noted DVA is delivering a free webinar series, with the first webinar *Understanding the Military Experience* to be held on 16 August 2016. The Government response to the Senate inquiry *Mental health of Australian Defence Force members and veterans* is being progressed.

- Community services panel

Members noted contract negotiations will commence shortly to provide treatment services for alcohol and drug use disorders, as a supplement to services provided through the hospital sector.

- Non-liability Health Care Budget measure

Members were advised regarding the expansion to non-liability health care for the treatment of mental health conditions.

- Telemonitoring trial evaluation update

Members noted the telemonitoring trial will end in December 2016. Health Outcomes International are independently evaluating the trial and they will deliver their report next year.

- DVA impacts from the 2016-17 Budget

Members received an update regarding some of the 2016-17 DVA Budget initiatives related to veterans' health.

- CVC Program update

Members were advised over the last year and a half the program has been evaluated and peer reviewed, with some of the review outcomes now being implemented. Satisfaction from veteran and provider perspectives is considered in this review process.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is a face-to-face meeting scheduled for 27 October 2016 and is open to the wider stakeholder group. Location and other details to be advised as soon as practicable.