



## Increasing veterans' workforce participation – streamlined access to incapacity payments

Streamlined access to incapacity payments will ensure that veterans with mental health conditions accepted under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) are provided with income replacement compensation as soon as possible should they be unable to continue to work due to their mental health conditions. This measure includes ongoing access (for up to 12 months) to rehabilitation services enabling a smoother transition when veterans find themselves in and out of employment.

### Why is this important?

This measure will support the provision of incapacity payments for veterans with episodic mental health conditions should their ability to continue participating in the workplace prove difficult for certain periods of time.

Once a veteran finds employment, any incapacity payments they receive may cease or be reduced. Veterans with episodic mental health conditions will sometimes be unable to continue to work for periods where their symptoms are acute. Currently, when this situation arises, the veteran is required to lodge a claim to have their incapacity payments reinstated. This measure will remove the requirement, by keeping the veterans' rehabilitation plan open for up to 12 months and active. Should the veteran cease work, they or their rehabilitation provider will contact the department to allow for payments to be re-instated without additional paperwork. This ensures a level of income can be maintained easily and quickly.

In addition, this measure will provide ongoing rehabilitation assistance, enabling a smoother transition in and out of work when veterans experience and increase in the symptoms of their mental health conditions.

### Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit around 700 veterans each year.

### Date of effect?

As soon as possible.

### How much will this cost?

The suite of measures, *increasing veterans' workforce participation*, received collective funding of \$9.1 million over four years.