

## **DVA HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC): Meeting Summary 24 September 2015 meeting**

The HAC convened in Canberra on Thursday 24 September 2015 for the first time, with representatives from 24 health associations and one Ex Service Organisation (ESO) attending. Discussions covered the following topics:

- DVA's new Principal Medical Adviser
- DVA's Provider Engagement Model
- Terms of Reference for the new HAC
- Strategic research agenda and maintaining access
- HAC work programme for 2016
- Association issues
- Coordinated Veterans' Care Programme
- DVA Medical & Health Advisory Services Panel
- Provider education
- Veterans' Health Week
- Proposed 2016 HAC meeting schedule

### **Introducing Dr Ian Gardner**

Dr Gardner gave a brief overview of his background and experience, and his view of his role at DVA.

### **Provider Engagement Model**

DVA's new Provider Engagement Model was circulated to invited associations prior to the meeting as an information paper. Attendees discussed and indicated support for the proposed model.

### **Draft Terms of Reference and operating principles**

Attendees agreed membership should be based on the key health care themes relevant to DVA patients, and on the work programme for the coming year. Veteran representation should continue to be via a member of the ESO Round Table.

Attendees agreed key areas of health specialty to be covered by membership of the new committee should include: allied health; mental health; specialist medical; hospitals; dental; pharmacy; community nursing; research; optometry, hearing; and rural and remote.

Appointment to the HAC will be for three years; associations represented will change over time. The associations represented on the HAC will be published on DVA's web site. The HAC will be able to form time-limited issue-specific project groups, each project group will have at least one HAC member.

DVA will invite around 12 associations to provide a nominee to the HAC. DVA will publish the HAC's Terms of Reference, membership and meeting papers on its web site.

### **DVA Strategic Research Agenda and Maintaining Access Budget measure**

Attendees were updated on the review of DVA dental and allied health arrangements. The new DVA HAC could be asked to consult on the review via working groups. This work will be undertaken separately to the DVA Health Advisory Committee, but will most likely draw on the expertise available in the HAC.

DVA will write to attending health representative associations seeking formal submissions for consideration by the review working groups. This review will sit alongside the Medicare review, and will not affect the DVA provider notes, it will be about the business rules.

DVA's research agenda addresses the needs of contemporary veterans as well as traditional veterans. DVA is working in collaboration with the Department of Defence on research. A tender has been released for a transition and well-being research project.

### Proposed Annual Work Programme for the New Committee

Attendees agreed the four key issues to form the basis of the coming year's work programme for the HAC. Attendees then nominated for project groups to address each of these issues.

Association	Working Group issue			
	Preventative Health	Cross Profession Referral	Co-ordinated care	Item number rules
Audiology Australia	√	√		
Australian Association of Social Workers			√	
Australian Dental Association	√			√
Australian Dental Prosthetist Association		√		√
Australian Diabetes Educators Association	√			
Australian General Practice Network			√	
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Association	√	√		
Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association	√			
Australian Physiotherapy Association	√	√	√	
Australasian Podiatry Council		√	√	√
Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association	√	√	√	
Australian Private Hospitals Association	√		√	
Australian Psychological Society	√		√	
Chiropractors' Association of Australia		√	√	
Dietitians Association of Australia	√	√		
Exercise & Sports Science Australia	√	√		
Occupational Therapy Australia	√	√	√	
Optometry Australia		√		√
Osteopathy Australia		√	√	

<b>Pharmacy Guild of Australia</b>	√		√	
<b>Royal District Nursing Service</b>		√	√	
<b>Rural Doctors Association of Australia</b>			√	
<b>Services for Australian Rural &amp; Remote Allied Health</b>	√			√
<b>Speech Pathology Australia</b>	√		√	
<b>Total</b> <b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>

### Association Issues

17 submissions were received from associations prior to the meeting. All were either referred to the relevant DVA programme area for direct response to the relevant association or addressed during the meeting.

Access to data is still considered an issue for associations. DVA needs to examine this to determine if it is a one-on-one association issue, or if it is a strategic issue across the board. DVA can only capture data for veterans with a Gold Card or White Card.

Transition from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to civilian life is a challenge. A copy of [DVA's health card information](#) sheet was circulated to all members.

### Coordinated Veterans' Care Programme

The Chair gave an overview of the Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Programme and its purpose. Overall, the CVC Programme has passed its uptake targets and has been very successful in coordinating health care for veterans with chronic conditions.

Over 30,000 veterans have enrolled on the programme since its commencement on 1 May 2011, with more than 22,000 veterans still active on the programme. More than 5,500 GPs have been involved with the programme since it commenced, and more than 3,700 GPs are still involved.

DVA anticipates providing the CVC Programme evaluation outcomes to the Department of Health for consideration by the Primary Health Care Advisory Group.

### Request for Tender for the Provision of Medical & Health Advisory Services Panel

Current contracts expire 30 September 2015, and tender results are currently being finalised. There will be four main categories of advisers on the new panel:

- Medico-legal diagnostic services;
- Treatment advice;
- Policy advice; and
- Delegated decision role in Veterans' Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VPAC).

DVA can provide an information brief to the committee when the process has been finalised.

### Provider Education

Attendees were asked to remind their health association members of the provider education material available on DVA's web site, some of which carries Continuing Professional

Development (CPD) points. Attending health professional associations will advise DVA of their 2016 industry conference.

### **Veterans' Health Week**

Is held in October each year. There are four revolving themes:

- Mental wellness (this year);
- Social connection (next year);
- Physical activity (2017); and
- Nutrition (2018).

### **Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule**

Meetings in 2016 will be held in March, July and October.