

Summary of Meeting – 20 March 2019

The 46th meeting of the Defence DVA Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 20 March 2019. The following matters were discussed at the meeting.

Transition

The Committee received an update on the 2019 Prime Minister's Veteran's Employment Awards which were held on 5 March. Winners across nine categories were announced.

An update on the 2019 Defence Transition Seminars was given. A new toolkit to assist veterans transitioning from the military to the civilian workplace has been developed and is being trialled at the Transition Seminars.

Policy, Programme and Initiatives

The Committee was informed of the progress of a number of pilot initiatives to improve services for transitioning members.

The Committee was provided with an update on the Veterans' Recognition Project.

The Veterans' Recognition Project includes the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant which encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families. The Covenant includes an oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day. The Covenant is underpinned by the new Veteran Card and an Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin.

The intention of the Covenant is to provide employers, businesses, local communities, and veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

Reports Back

The Committee received updates on a range of inquiries and studies, including:

- The *Family Wellbeing Study* (this is one of the eight reports that make up the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme), and
- The Government Response to the Senate Inquiry into the use of quinoline anti-malarial drugs mefloquine and tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Other Business

Other issues discussed included the Defence/DVA Electronic Information Exchange (DDEIE), a project to enable the electronic sharing of data between the Department of Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs.