

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Defence / DVA Links Steering Committee

Summary of Meeting – 16 December 2013

The 29th Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 16 December 2013. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

Support Continuum Performance Report

- The committee received the latest report from the Support Continuum Performance system and noted 30 of the 31 recommendations from the first phase of the review of the Support for Wounded, Injured or Ill Program (SWIIP) have been completed.

Update on Defence Links Information Management Working Group

- The committee heard that the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) had now met twice to discuss data exchange and information sharing issues between Defence and DVA. The aim is for the IMWG to set out a framework to facilitate information-sharing whilst maintaining individuals' privacy.
- The committee endorsed the terms of reference and membership of the IMWG and the progression of action items from its two meetings.

Reports from Health Consultative Forum and Defence Links Research Advisory Committee

- The committee received reports from the Health Consultative Forum and Defence Links Research Advisory Committee. Both reports highlighted the benefits of Defence and DVA undertaking a joint approach to the issues involved.

ADF Service Women Steering Committee Report

- The committee considered the report of the ADF Service Women Steering Committee on request from the Repatriation Commission and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission.
- The ADF Service Women Steering Committee was established in 2013 to discuss care and support issues with female current and former serving ADF members. Six meetings were held across a range of topics including health care, mental health, transition, rehabilitation, family support, transition and post-transition.
- Operational aspects of the ADF Service Women Steering Committee's recommendations were discussed at DLSC and it was agreed a joint Departmental response and implementation plan would be prepared early in 2014.

Ongoing Updates and Other Issues

- The committee received an update on the National Consultative Framework, discussed a review of regional stakeholder forums, discussed potential ways of staying in contact with ADF members post-transition, and considered feedback from the Queensland State ESO forum.
- The next meeting will be held in March 2014.