

Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Defence Defence / DVA Links Steering Committee

Summary of Meeting – 20 June 2013

The 27th Defence / DVA Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 20 June 2013.

The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

Defence / DVA Executive Committee

- The committee received a summary of the outcomes of the first Defence / DVA Executive Committee (DDEC) meeting which was held on 7 May 2013.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding between Defence and DVA for the cooperative delivery of care and support to entitled persons, DDEC is the principal governing body responsible for setting the joint strategic direction for the delivery of such care and support.
- The DLSC is responsible for implementing the strategic direction set by the DDEC.

Electronic Data Project

- The DLSC received a briefing on the Choice and Maintainability in Veterans' Services (CMVS) project which aims to provide clients with the choice to engage with the Department over the internet. CMVS has delivered a range of services to support both internal DVA business and to expand external client services via an online self-service portal called MyAccount.

Support Continuum Performance Report

- The committee received the first full report under the new Support Continuum Performance system.

Web-based Health Portal

- The committee received a briefing on a proposed new web-based Health Portal being developed within Defence to improve the communication of support services available to current and former ADF members and their families.
- The portal will be available from both the Defence and Veterans' Affairs websites and other key locations. The portal will include links to the Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service (VVCS) website and to topic specific DVA resources such as the At-Ease, The Right Mix and PTSD Coach Australia apps.

Veteran Mental Health Strategy 2013

- The committee received a briefing on the DVA Mental Health Strategy which was launched by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 27 May 2013.
- The strategy provides a 10 year framework for the provision of mental health care in the veteran and ex-service community, focusing on expanding access to mental health services; strengthening mental health support, and improving claims processing.

Post Discharge Support

- DVA's South Australian office held a Post Discharge Support Workshop in March 2013 with a range of stakeholders including the ADF, Returned and Services League (RSL) and VVCS. The intent was to explore how improvements can be made in communicating with discharged ADF members. DVA is looking at options to hold similar meetings in other States.

Rehabilitation / Transition for Reservists

- The committee discussed the timing of the transition of responsibility for the rehabilitation of part time ADF reservists.

Ongoing Updates and Other Issues

- The committee heard updates on the proposal to identify opportunities for ex-service member participation in the United States Marine Corps Para Olympics, and the review of the VVCS Stepping Out Program.

The next meeting will be held in September 2013.