

Summary of Meeting – 21 August 2015

The 34th Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 21 August 2015. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

Support Continuum Performance Report

- The Committee reviewed the April–June quarter 2014 Support Continuum Performance Report.

Information Management Working Group (IMWG) Report

- The Committee discussed IMWG progress on the development of the information exchange initiatives and strategies between Defence and DVA and Defence access to DVA claims and determinations data.

Veterans' Health Card usage by ADF Members

- The Committee considered a report looking at a joint approach the management of DVA health care cards and the provision of treatment to serving ADF members to prevent the problem of ADF members not disclosing medical conditions to Defence.

Reenlistment of Former ADF Members with Known Medical Conditions

- The Committee examined a report on the reenlistment process with regards to the waiving of medical conditions and requirements.

Homelessness in the ex-ADF Community

- The Committee discussed options for identifying and assisting transitioning ADF members who might be at risk of succumbing to homelessness.

Health Consultative Forum

- The Committee noted that DVA's Health and Community Services Division continues to work closely with Defence and may consider a change to the formal forum engagement.

On Base Advisory Service (OBAS)

- The Committee was advised that DVA were looking at the future of their service delivery model and that OBAS does and would continue to play a key role. Defence is also looking at co-design and that the two departments should share ideas.

Defence Links Research Working Group

- The Committee noted that a considerable amount of work was currently underway in this space.

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) Assessment Timeframes

- The Committee examined a paper regarding CSC's assessments and deemed that negotiations between the departments was necessary.

Veterans' Employment Assistance Initiative

- The Committee was updated on DVA's Veterans' Employment Assistance Initiative and noted the importance of working closely with the ADFRP and engaging with groups. These and other issues will be considered in the next phase of the Initiative.

ADF Reservists

- The Committee learned that DVA had instituted regular meetings with Defence's Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division to discuss issues of mutual interest which were proving very productive.

Ongoing Business

- The next meeting will be held on 24 November 2015.