

Summary of Meeting – 8 December 2014

The 32nd Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 8 December 2014. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

Support Continuum Performance Report

- The Committee reviewed the September 2014 Support Continuum Performance Report.

Information Management Working Group (IMWG) Report

- The Committee considered IMWG progress on the development of the Common Access Portal, Defence access to DVA claims and determinations data, and work being undertaken to define data access arrangements between the Departments.

Defence Notifications

- The Committee discussed the progress of the Defence Notifications process for current serving members who may benefit from early contact by DVA.
- The Committee agreed that future reporting on this process would be included in the Support Continuum Performance Report.

Health Consultative Forum

- The Committee noted that DVA's Health and Community Services Division continues to work closely with Defence's Joint Health Command in the implementation of the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme.
- The Committee discussed the public Peer Support Forum held in November 2014 which attracted over 100 ex-service members and health industry members and the development progress of the SMART website.

Defence eHealth System

- The Committee were briefed on the rollout of the Defence eHealth System.

Suakin Program

- The Committee were updated on the progress of Defence's Project Suakin Program.

Defence Links Research Working Group

- Issues discussed by the Committee included: the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme; progress on the MRCA Rehabilitation Long Term Study; the October 2014 release of the Peacekeepers and the Rwanda Deployment Health Studies; and the Australasian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) Conference held 17-19 October 2014.

Veterans' Employment Assistance Initiative

- The Committee was updated on the Veterans' Employment Assistance Initiative, launched by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in Brisbane on 12 September 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Report on Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured in Operations (JSCFADT Report)

- The Committee agreed that it would seek a report on progress across the 25 recommendations from the Report for discussion at the next meeting.

MRCA Review Implementation Education Program Planning

- The Committee received an update on the MRCA Review Implementation Education Program Planning including a presentation of one of the key products from the Education Program to the Committee, a YouTube video. The video reminds Australian Defence Force members that support is available no matter what stage of their career they're at.

Ongoing Business

- The next meeting will be held on 20 March 2015.