



Mental health treatment for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force – expanded access

Current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will be able to access treatment for any mental health condition without the need to prove the condition is related to their service.

Why is this important?

The Department Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will pay for treatment for all mental health conditions under non-liability health care arrangements, including adjustment disorders, acute stress disorder, phobias, panic disorder, agoraphobia, and bipolar and related disorders.

All current and former members of the ADF who have rendered at least one day of continuous full-time service will be eligible. The mental health condition does not need to be related to service and a formal diagnosis is not required prior to seeking treatment.

This measure builds on the 2016–17 Budget initiative that made all current and former members of the ADF who had served one day in the full-time ADF able to access treatment for the following mental health conditions:

- post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- depression
- anxiety
- alcohol misuse
- substance misuse.

Treatment under the non-liability health care arrangements is delivered through the provision of a DVA White Card. Services available under these arrangements may include general practitioner, psychiatrist, psychologist, medication, public or private hospital, and counselling.

Who will benefit?

Around 2,000 current and former members of the ADF will benefit from the expanded treatment arrangements.

Date of effect?

1 July 2017.

How much will this cost?

This measure will provide funding of \$33.5 million over four years.

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