

## **Summary of Meeting – 24 June 2021**

The 56<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held via GovTEAMS on Thursday, 24 June 2021. The following Policy, Program and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting:

### **Strategy**

The Committee was provided information about the Veteran Centric Reform achievements as at 31 May 2021 and noted the 2021-22 Budget outcome in relation to planning for the future years 5 and 6.

The Committee was advised that the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide public consultation on the Terms of Reference closed on 21 May 2021. DVA received over 1,400 pieces of feedback, gathered through online and email submissions, as well as face-to-face engagements with key stakeholders across the country which was all provided to the Attorney General's Department. In addition, the Attorney General's Department received over 1,800 pieces of feedback.

The Committee noted that the May 2021 Budget provided an update on the Government's response to the Productivity Commission Report, with a final response to be released at a later stage.

The Committee was also provided a verbal update on the Joint Standing Committee Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade – Transition and the Joint Transition Authority.

### **Governance**

The Committee noted that the Information Management Working Group is leading work to review and update the Defence and DVA Memorandum of Understanding, and its relevant schedules regarding two main areas: Review of the Support Continuum Performance Report to take on a wellbeing focus; and Update of service standards and protocols for the introduction of the Defence-DVA Electronic Information Exchange (DDEIE) and Request Management System (RMS) systems in late 2021.

The Committee also noted that the DDEIE and RMS Project Steering Group will continue to meet post go-live and report back to the DLSC once technical and/or process issues are fully resolved.

### **Performance**

The Committee was advised that DVA is prioritising support to transitioning and vulnerable Australian Defence Force (ADF) members. Case Management support is provided by the Veteran Support Officers for the cohort of veterans who are aged under 30 and are transitioning from the ADF for medical or administrative reasons, and have vulnerable or complex presentations.

The Committee noted that a meeting was held between Defence and DVA on 26 May 2021 to reset the scope of the Defence Initiated Claims Initiative Pilot. A further discussion to confirm the location and the extent of conditions to be assessed under the Pilot will be undertaken.

### **Other Business**

The Committee discussed and will have further updates at future DLSC meetings regarding an intent to have Occupational Physicians on ADF Bases and proposals for the DVA Research Board.

The next DLSC meeting has been scheduled for 8 September 2021.