

## Summary of Meetings – 8 and 28 September 2021

The 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was an extraordinary meeting held via GovTEAMS on Wednesday, 8 September 2021. The meeting allowed DLSC members, and representatives from the Australian Government Actuary (AGA) and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, to review the operations of both the military compensation and invalidity schemes. The Committee also discussed the Support Continuum Performance Report for Quarters 1 and 2 2021. This report helps both Defence and DVA to understand the context, and any trends, in the delivery of support to veterans.

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DLSC was held via GovTEAMS on Tuesday, 28 September 2021. This was the business as usual meeting of DLSC to discuss the following Policy, Program and Initiatives:

### Strategy

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

### Governance

The Committee noted the continued work on reviewing and updating the Defence and DVA Memorandum of Understanding, and its relevant schedules. Discussions have commenced at an operational level to look at potential operating models for the Defence and DVA Single Access Method (SAM) functions.

The Committee was updated on the Defence-DVA Electronic Information Exchange (DDEIE) and Request Management System (RMS) Project and noted the latest revised project schedule and work underway to prepare the required support arrangements following the final release of the new system.

### Performance

The Committee was updated on the refined parameters of the Defence Initiated Claims Initiative Implementation Pilot and it was agreed that the Pilot should adopt a whole of person and member centric approach.

The Committee was provided an overview of the Transition Medical Assessment (TMA) Project. The Committee endorsed in-principle, a proof of concept pilot of the TMA and noted further discussions are required regarding funding arrangements, governance and the proposed pilot options.

### Other Business

The Committee agreed that the joint Defence DVA Support for Wounded, Injured or Ill Program (SWIIP) should close at the conclusion of SWIIP Phase 3. The joint Program Managers will submit a Program Closure Report once Phase 3 is complete to the DLSC members.

The Committee was advised that a meeting was held on 10 August 2021 to discuss the support provided to transitioning members, with a particular focus on recent events in Afghanistan. Senior members from both Defence and DVA were in attendance and have agreed to increase the range of initiatives implemented across both departments.

The Committee was updated on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and advised that the Royal Commission will be required to deliver an interim report by 11 August 2022 and a final report by 15 June 2023.

The next DLSC meeting has been scheduled for 2 December 2021.