

# Department of Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs Links Steering Committee

---

## Summary of Meeting – 7 December 2022

The 63rd meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Wednesday 7 December 2022. The following Policy, Programs and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

### Strategy

The Committee was updated on closure of the Transition Taskforce. The Transition Taskforce was established in 2016 to improve transition outcomes for ADF members and their families, and to ensure that current and future veterans and their families have the support they need to transition effectively. Defence and DVA are jointly reviewing the final response prior to submission to the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel.

The Committee was updated on development of the Veterans' and Defence Family Strategy. A joint Defence / DVA Steering Committee is guiding development of the Strategy. This Strategy is informed by a survey of veterans and families, which was underway at the time of the Meeting and open until 6 January 2023. Monthly updates are being provided to the Minister and roundtable discussions are planned to commence in mid-February 2023.

An update on the Data Sharing and Analytics Solution project was provided. The joint Defence and DVA Working Group is continuing discussions on options to better enable data analytics between Defence and DVA. A DVA/Defence Workshop was to be held on 8 December 2022 on the approaches to managing privacy and will report to the DLSC on 15 March 2023.

The Committee agreed to decommission the Information Management Working Group. The responsibility for engagement on information and data sharing, including the Support Continuum Performance Report, would be directed to an alternate working group.

### Governance

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Defence and DVA for the Cooperative Delivery of Care and Support was reviewed and signed in August 2022, and is published on the DVA website. The Committee agreed to extend *Schedule 23* of the MOU - Joint Research Agenda for a period of six months to June 2023 and then replace it with a new *Schedule 25* which will better reflect Defence and DVA's broader research collaboration. This will be formally agreed through an exchange of letters.

The Committee agreed to close the Joint Support to Wounded Ill and Injured Program as its key deliverables to improve joint cooperation and data flows between Defence and DVA had been achieved.

### Performance

The Committee agreed to pause the Defence Initiated Claims Pilot until Defence's Health Knowledge Management System reaches operational capability in the first quarter of 2024.

The Committee noted progress of the Veterans' and Families' Hubs Program:

- Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Matt Keogh MP has opened new hubs in Nowra NSW on 5 December 2022 and Wodonga VIC on 6 December 2022;
- Darwin Hub expected to open in the first quarter of 2023; and

- The first phase of consultation for eight new hubs being completed.

### **Other Business**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare delivered a presentation on its role as a data integration agency.

The next DLSC meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2023.