



Supporting Veterans – Volunteer Training in Suicide Recognition and Intervention

This initiative will provide \$2 million over two years from 2023-24 to support the continued delivery of mental health literacy and suicide intervention training for the ex-service community.

Through this initiative, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will continue to deliver a national series of workshops and training sessions on topics such as suicide awareness and mental health first aid. The training aims to increase the capacity of the ex-service community to support veterans in distress.

Why is this important?

Prevention of veteran suicide is a key priority for the Australian Government, with research showing that certain cohorts of veterans have a significantly higher risk of death by suicide than their civilian peers.

The veteran community, including ex-service organisations, veterans, families, caregivers and friends play an important role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of veterans. These groups may be the first point of contact for a veteran who is experiencing distress or suicidal ideation.

Mental health first aid training and suicide specific training programs provide the veteran community with the skills and knowledge needed to recognise those at risk of suicide, provide support and intervention, and enable the connection to mental health support. Increased education also helps to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide that can discourage veterans and their families from connecting with available supports. This is essential in reducing the incidence of suicide within the veteran population.

Who will benefit?

This proposal would benefit veterans, caregivers, family members, and friends of veterans, along with volunteers who work with veterans and their families. Up to 4,000 participants over two years are expected to participate in this training and support the veteran community.

Date of effect?

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

How much will this cost?

\$2 million over two years.