



Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024

Release of Exposure Draft – Factsheet

What is an Exposure Draft?

An exposure draft is a Bill that is not in its final form and is intended for people to read and discuss in advance of any potential changes being made. A Bill is what a law is called before it is passed by the Parliament.

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 is significant as, subject to its passage through Parliament, it will give effect to changes recommended in the interim report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. More specifically, the Bill proposes that, from 1 July 2026, all new compensation claims from veterans and their families will be considered under a single compensation Act (an improved version of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*).

How will this affect me?

The release of the exposure draft and supporting documentation is an opportunity for members of the Australian public to see the proposed changes to the legislation that govern Veterans' compensation, rehabilitation and other entitlements.

The changes proposed in the Bill will greatly simplify the current (tri-Act) compensation framework that has evolved over the last 100 years by effectively 'closing' the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* to new claims with effect from 1 July 2026. From that date, all claims would be considered under a single piece of legislation, providing greater clarity and certainty of entitlements.

Feedback will help to ensure that there are no unintended consequences which result from the changes.

How can I provide feedback on the Bill?

You can submit your feedback on the Bill via the DVA website at <https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform-exposure-draft-consultation/how-get-involved-and-submit-your-feedback>.

Additionally, feedback regarding the Bill can be emailed to legislation.reform@dva.gov.au.

Comments close on 28 April 2024.

More information about what changes are being made can be obtained from the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform.

Date of effect?

If passed by Parliament, the legislation will commence on 1 July 2026