



# Quick guide to DVA funding arrangements

## Investigation of veterans' cognitive concerns

- **Ask your patient**
  - Have they served in the Australian Defence Force? Do they have a Veteran Health Card? What type?
- **Consider potential causes for their symptoms, including exposures that may be specific to their Defence service.**
- **Check whether your patient is eligible for DVA-funded services**
  - Veteran Health Card holders can check their DVA Accepted Conditions via their MyService account – linked to MyGov.
  - NB – Veterans and their family members are also eligible for health services and programs available to the general Australian community.
- **Undertake assessment**
  - Assessment may include diagnostic testing, diagnostic clarification, and treatment planning.

Services and programs that may be DVA funded	Eligibility: Veteran White Card and Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) for mental health conditions*	Eligibility: Veteran White Card with DVA accepted condition/s relevant to the cognitive concerns	Eligibility: Veteran Gold Card (all health conditions)	More information
<b>Medical services (assessment and diagnosis consultations)</b> E.g. GP, neurologist, psychiatrist, geriatrician, occupational medicine physician.	✓	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/general-practitioner-and-medical-specialist-services">www.dva.gov.au/general-practitioner-and-medical-specialist-services</a>
<b>Allied health services (assessment and diagnosis)</b> E.g. psychologist, neuropsychologist.	✓	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/allied-health-professions">www.dva.gov.au/allied-health-professions</a>
<b>Medication review</b>	✓ MBS & RMFS	✓ MBS & RMFS	✓ MBS & RMFS	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/pharmacists">www.dva.gov.au/providers/pharmacists</a>
<b>Pathology and medical imaging</b>	✓ MBS & RMFS	✓ MBS & RMFS	✓ MBS & RMFS	Doctors can order CT/MRI (if clinically indicated in line with MBS imaging guidelines)

\* Non-Liability Health Care – treatment of any mental health component of cognitive concerns is covered without a claim. Where the cause is a mental health condition, treatment is covered without a claim.

If the veterans' symptoms lead you to diagnose a condition that may be linked to their service, the client can submit a claim for compensation through MyService. If the condition is accepted as being caused by their service, they become eligible for DVA funded treatment of that condition.

See next page for more funded supports for veterans presenting to primary care with cognitive concerns.

# Treatment of cognitive concerns in Veterans (diagnosis known)

Treatment of cognitive concerns includes direct treatment of any underlying conditions, rehabilitation strategies designed to maintain independence, and holistic treatment to improve overall brain health, preserve cognition, and foster a sense of control and confidence. It may include aids, tools, and assistive technologies, skills training, environmental modification, education for carers and families and linkage to appropriate supports.

Listed below are DVA funded treatments: select an eligibility type based on their card type and trace the column down for DVA supports available.

Services and programs	Eligibility: Veteran White Card with Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) for mental health conditions*	Eligibility: Veteran White Card with DVA accepted condition/s relevant to the cognitive concerns	Eligibility: Veteran Gold Card for all health conditions	More information
<b>Open Arms</b> Veterans and Families Counselling Free 24/7 confidential counselling and wellbeing services for eligible veterans, partners and families. Open Arms is a counselling service and presentations requiring neuropsychological diagnosis are out of scope.	✓	✓	✓	<a href="https://www.openarms.gov.au">https://www.openarms.gov.au</a>
<b>Medical services (treatment)</b> E.g. GP, neurologist, psychiatrist, geriatrician, occupational medicine physician.	✓	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/general-practitioner-and-medical-specialist-services">www.dva.gov.au/general-practitioner-and-medical-specialist-services</a>
<b>Allied health services (treatment)</b> E.g. psychologist, clinical psychologist, neuropsychologist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist, audiologist, optometrist.	✓ Broader allied health treatment can be used as part of a mental health management plan	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/allied-health-professions">www.dva.gov.au/allied-health-professions</a>
<b>Medications and dose administration aids (Webster packs)</b>	✓ PBS & RPBS	✓ PBS & RPBS	✓ PBS & RPBS	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/pharmacists">www.dva.gov.au/providers/pharmacists</a> <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/daa-service-fees">www.dva.gov.au/providers/daa-service-fees</a>
<b>Aids &amp; assistive technologies</b> E.g. sensor mat, key finder, home safety alarms, medication timers/alerts.	✗	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/Rap-Schedule">www.dva.gov.au/Rap-Schedule</a>
<b>Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program</b> Proactive care coordination for Veteran Health Card holders with chronic DVA-accepted health conditions.	✗	✓ If a MH condition accepted and is chronic	✓ If a chronic health condition present	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/cvcproviders">www.dva.gov.au/cvcproviders</a>
<b>Work and social life Programs</b> Practical supports to improve health, work, and social life.	✗	✓	✓	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs">www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs</a>

\* Non-Liability Health Care – treatment of any mental health component of cognitive concerns is covered without a claim. Where the cause is a mental health condition, treatment is covered without a claim.