

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

Summary of Meeting – 18 July 2025

The 71st meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Friday 18 July 2025. The following Policy, Programs and Initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

Strategy

The Committee discussed the public consultation and co-design process undertaken by the Taskforce on Wellbeing Agency and Peak Body to inform the establishment of a new agency focused on veteran wellbeing (Royal Commission Recommendation 87).

Members were advised that in May 2025, a partial strategic realignment of the functions of the DVA Transition Branch was implemented to strengthen DVA's support for transitioning veterans and families and assist in the implementation of the Government's response to the Royal Commission recommendations relating to Transition. Two additional teams, Community Support and Veterans' Chaplaincy, have been integrated with the branch as part of the realignment.

Performance

Members were advised that DVA and Joint Transition Authority are working together to ensure the support for transition is monitored and evaluated across the continuum. The reporting framework is expected to include metrics for both system performance and veteran wellbeing. Outcomes of reporting will be used to inform future strategy, policy and program development.

Other Business

Members were provided an update on Veterans' and Families' Hubs (Hubs). Hubs deliver integrated support to veterans and families and improve access to local services which may include wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services.

There are now nine established hubs delivering support to veterans and families in Perth, Townsville, Adelaide, Darwin, Wodonga, Nowra, Caboolture, Burnie and most recently in Queanbeyan NSW. In addition to the work already underway to establish an additional hub and spoke model in Tasmania, seven new Hubs are being established in Southwest Perth, Northern Adelaide, Ipswich, Queanbeyan, the Hawkesbury region, the Hunter region, the Tweed/North Coast region, and the Surf Coast/Geelong region. The expansion of the Hubs Program is progressing well, funded through multiple year, milestone-based grant agreements.

The Committee noted DVA's progress towards implementing the Veteran and Family Learning and Innovation Network of Knowledge (VF-LINK), a new research and evaluation model. The objective of this model is to increase the production, use and sharing of evidence to support decision-making and policy, program and service design.

Members also received an update on the Transition Medical Assessment Pilot Project.