



# DVA Research Strategy Consultations

## Information for stakeholders

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is developing a 5-year DVA Research Strategy in partnership with Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (Phoenix Australia) as part of the Department's new research and evaluation model, the Veteran and Family – Learning and Innovation Network of Knowledge (VF-LINK). Under this model, Phoenix Australia is leading a consortium of research and evaluation organisations which cover all aspects of health research expertise to help shape DVA policy, program and service design.

The DVA Research Strategy will drive the Department's future research activities and ensure the approach is systematic, logical, and focussed on delivering meaningful and impactful outcomes. The Strategy will be guided by recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

## How the DVA Research Strategy will be developed

DVA and Phoenix Australia are seeking input from across the veteran community to co-design the new Strategy. Consultation with stakeholders will ensure the Strategy is informed by the lived experience, priorities and expertise of veterans, families of veterans, health professionals and ex-service and community organisations.

Embedding diverse perspectives into the Strategy will strengthen its relevance and help DVA identify and consider knowledge gaps, where it can commission and utilise practical research to enhance the design and delivery of current and future programs and services.

Consultation with stakeholders will be conducted via a survey and focus groups, and will ask questions to identify issues of relevance faced by Australian veterans, families of veterans and health service providers who support veterans to inform DVA's future research priorities.

Participation is voluntary and confidential. Responses will be combined and reported in summary form only, and no individual veteran, family member or provider will be identifiable.

## How stakeholder consultation contributions will be used

Suggestions received through consultation activities will play an important part in the development of the Strategy, by informing:

- themes and focus areas for potential research investment
- factors to be considered in priority-setting to ensure they are representative and relevant.

While not every suggestion will be reflected at a high level in the final Strategy, your input will collectively shape the direction and priorities in the Strategy, making a real difference to ensure veteran research efforts is well-targeted and purposeful.

## How stakeholder contributions will be reported

A consultation report that summarises the input received during the consultation period will be presented alongside the final DVA Research Strategy. This approach aligns with the processes for other key strategic documents, such as the Defence and Veteran Mental Health Strategy 2025-2023, and supports DVA's commitment to maintain transparency with the veteran community and other stakeholders.

## How to access the final DVA Research Strategy

Once developed, the final Strategy will be published on the DVA website, along with annual research Work Plans which will specify the research projects to be established and conducted over each 12-month period.

The final Strategy will serve as a roadmap to guide DVA's research investment, partnerships and decision-making, ensuring research activities continue to produce actionable findings that can drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of veterans and families of veterans.