



Medicinal Cannabis Fact Sheet



Kahlil Fegan DSC, AM

Repatriation Commissioner

This fact sheet is for veterans receiving DVA-funded medicinal cannabis.

As the Repatriation Commissioner, I speak with veterans across the community and hear your concerns. I understand there is confusion and misinformation about recent changes to DVA's Medicinal Cannabis Framework.

As a veteran myself, I want to make sure you have clear, accurate information about what's changing, and what it means for you. Here are the key facts.

DVA continues to fund medicinal cannabis

DVA has funded medicinal cannabis for eligible veterans since 2018 and **that hasn't changed**.

- DVA is still funding medicinal cannabis for eligible veterans
- You will not lose funding if your treatment is within the DVA criteria that support safer treatment
- Your usual doctor is still responsible for managing your overall care and prescriptions

There are strict criteria for funding. Medicinal cannabis may be approved for eligible Veteran Card holders living with:

- Chronic pain
- Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
- Palliative care needs
- Anorexia and wasting due to chronic illness
- Muscle spasms from some nerve conditions, and
- Difficult to control seizure disorders in children

DVA does not fund medicinal cannabis for **mental health conditions**, including PTSD.

Updates to the Framework

DVA must ensure all funded treatments are safe and effective, based on scientific evidence and advice from medical experts and regulators.

Based on recent evidence, **some changes were needed**. These changes aim to ensure medicinal cannabis is prescribed safely, and for the right reasons.

There is also increasing evidence of harm from higher THC doses, which is why some limits have been introduced.

DVA will continue to fund medicinal cannabis when:

- The prescription is written by a doctor with **specialist registration** with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).
(Specialists includes most GPs and specialists such as pain or rehabilitation doctors)
- You attend an **in-person appointment** when:
 - Medicinal cannabis is prescribed for the first time
 - You change prescribers
 - Your prescription changes to more than 40mg of THC per day, or more than two products at the same time.
- Dried herb products do not exceed **25% THC**, and do not exceed **2g per day** total.
- The products you have been prescribed are:
 - **Dried herbs** for vaporisation using a TGA-approved device.
 - **Oral products** in capsule or liquid form.
 - Edibles (like gummies or pastilles) **will not be funded**.
- You have been prescribed no more than three different medicinal cannabis products at the same time.

What you need to do

Have a chat with your prescribing doctor. Make sure your current prescription lines up with the updated Framework. This includes checking:

- Product type
- Dose
- Quantity
- Whether your doctor has specialist registration with Ahpra

If your doctor doesn't have this registration, ask for a referral to someone who does. **DVA cannot provide a list of prescribers or recommend specific doctors.** Your GP or pharmacist can point you in the right direction.

Transition arrangements

There is a **six-month transition period** to give you time to adjust.

If you had a prescription filled between **16 February 2025** and **15 February 2026**, you can continue to get repeat prescriptions until **31 August 2026**, even if they fall outside of the new limits.

Where to get more information

- Visit the DVA website, which includes a link to Frequently Asked Questions.
- Visit [Medicinal cannabis | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).
- Call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) and ask to be put through to Pharmaceuticals.

Your prescribing doctor can contact the Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC) on 1800 552 580 for clinical advice.

I am hopeful this helps clarify the changes. Our focus remains the same - ensuring veterans who need medicinal cannabis as part of a safe and appropriate treatment plan continue to be supported.