



Minutes

Agenda Item 1 Welcome, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

The Chair opened the meeting acknowledging Country, veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force personnel and welcomed observers. Members **NOTED** the apologies as listed at Annexure A and no conflicts of interest were raised.

Agenda Item 2 Action Items

Members **NOTED** that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 20 May 2026 were endorsed out-of-session and published on the DVA website.

Members **AGREED** to close action items 2026OWP/A03, A04, A06 and A07.

Members **NOTED** that the action items 2026OWP/A01, A05 and A08 remain in progress.

Agenda Item 3 Claims Processing Update

Members **NOTED** the increase in liability and permanent impairment claims under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 in the lead-up to the new legislation. DVA provided an update on the various impacts the upcoming changes in legislation are having on veteran behaviour for submitting claims, and how the department is responding to the needs of veterans.

Members **DISCUSSED** that the amount of information and data provided on the DVA website can be overwhelming and excessive. Members were **ASKED** to provide examples of data that would be most useful on a public facing dashboard.

Members **DISCUSSED** the list of conditions covered under presumptive liability and the role of the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) in reviewing decisions for presumptive liability.

Members **NOTED** that the large increase in the number of claims has not raised the percentage of cases the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) has overturned.

No.	Action	Assigned to
2026OWP/A09	Members to share with DVA the types of data that would be considered most useful for the revised claims data page on the DVA website.	Secretariat, Policy and Research Division

Agenda Item 4 Legislative Reform Update

Members **NOTED** the positive feedback DVA has received on the training sessions that have been delivered to regional advocates.

Members **NOTED** an update on recent activity surrounding the upcoming VETS Act taking effect from 1 July 2026, particularly the presumptive liability conditions under the new Act.

It was **AGREED** members would be sent a hard copy of the "Creating a simpler, easier to use system for the veteran community" booklet.

No.	Action	Assigned to
2026OWP/A10	Secretariat to organise the distribution of the “ <i>Creating a simpler, easier to use system for the veteran community</i> ” booklet to OWP and NCF members.	Secretariat, Policy and Research Division
2026OWP/A11	DVA to share the list of conditions accepted under presumptive liability under the VETS Act to OWP members.	Policy and Research

Agenda Item 5 Advocacy Update

Members **NOTED** the establishment of the Institute of Veterans’ Advocacy (IVA) and that they are likely to ‘hard launch’ in the coming months.

Members **AGREED** that all Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) members should be kept informed and considered when advocacy changes are made.

Members **DISCUSSED** the insurance options available to advocates and organisations seeking BEST grants, and **NOTED** that DVA does not have control over the Veterans’ Indemnity and Training Association Inc (VITA).

Agenda Item 6 Other Business

Members **DISCUSSED** 2026OWP/A06 seeking clarification on the term treating practitioner.

Members **DISCUSSED** DVA’s communication strategies for getting messages out to veteran advocates.

Members congratulated and thanked DVA on the work they have done this year.

Meeting closed: 12:17pm

Members	
Tara Cavanagh	A/g Chair, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programs
Tracey Negus	Australian Special Air Services Association
Narelle Bromhead OAM	Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc
Keely Dreghorn	Returned and Services League of Australia
Clem Russell	The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation
Max Ball	Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia
Bill Roberts OAM	Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia
Presenters	
Luke Brown	First Assistant Secretary, Policy and Research Division
Tara Hatzismalis	A/g First Assistant Secretary, Client Benefits Division
Secretariat	
Tristan Rallings	A/g Director, International and Stakeholder Relations Section
Brendan Corbett	Senior Secretariat Officer, International and Stakeholder Relations Section
Freya Doherty	Secretariat Officer, International and Stakeholder Relations Section
Apologies	
FLTLT Rod Hutchings	Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association
John Mcneil	Australian Veterans Alliance
Bob Connor	Legacy Canberra
Scott Jeffrey	TPI Federation of Australia