



Royal Commission Implementation Committee

Meeting Overview

24 September 2025

Welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Royal Commission Implementation Committee (RCIC) met on 24 September 2025 to discuss activities under way to support the delivery of DVA led or joint-led Recommendations.

Forward Work Plan

RCIC members discussed the Forward Work Plan and agreed to minor amendments to better align with evolving priorities.

The RCIC highlighted the importance of scheduling recommendations with upcoming milestones or updated advice for RCIC consideration before the end of 2025, supporting timely oversight and decision-making.

Recommendation for discussion by theme



Veterans' Ministerial Council Priorities

The RCIC noted planning for the next Veterans' Ministerial Council (VMC) meeting is currently underway and expected to be held in November 2025.

Wellbeing Agency and Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Peak Body co-design update

The RCIC noted an update on progress made to establish the new Agency focused on wellbeing, noting the recent announcement that the Agency will commence from 1 July 2026.

Update from Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)

The Head of the Royal Commission Implementation Taskforce provided an update on work underway at PM&C, including the proposed approach to seeking input from DVA and Defence, supporting continued coordination across agencies.

Update from Defence

The RCIC noted the update from the Chief of Personnel, Department of Defence and Deputy Secretary, Defence People, including progress in reviewing and endorsing the Defence Reform Management Plans.

Update on recommendations

The following recommendations were considered and discussed, with updates provided on progress to date and agreed next steps:

Recommendation 76: develop a postvention framework with experts and those with lived experience of suicide bereavement

Recommendation 77: Develop a suite of postvention resources in collaboration with stakeholders

- The RCIC noted DVA has delivered the first activity of Recommendation 76, with development of the enterprise-wide Suicide Prevention Framework and Implementation Plan.
- Following the update provided for Recommendation 76, the RCIC noted an update on Recommendation 77, including:
 - Postvention is one of the three key elements of the Suicide Prevention Framework with Postvention comprising three key focus areas:
 - a. Veteran Suicide Bereavement – information and understanding of bereavement and how people may be impacted by veteran suicides
 - b. Acknowledge the grief response – related to stigma and supporting people after a suicide death
 - c. Resources and tools - the resources and tools that will be developed as part of Recommendation 77

The RCIC **NOTED** the updates in relation to Recommendation 76 and 77, however asked for the project plans to be updated and resubmitted for further consideration.

Recommendation 94: improve timeliness and reporting on information-sharing between Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs for claims processing

- The RCIC noted an update on Part (a) of this recommendation which is to establish key performance indicators (KPIS) for the timeliness of information provided by Defence through the Single Access Mechanism (SAM) and report on performance.

- KPIs have been established and agreed between DVA and Defence and there is common understanding between Defence and DVA that KPIs will be revisited after the introduction of the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025.

The RCIC **ENDORSED** the Project Plan for Recommendation 94

Recommendation 117: establish an expert committee on veteran research

- The RCIC noted an update on planning and activities underway, including:
 - Defining the purpose, scope, and structure of the Expert Advisory Group that is reflective of examples of success from Five Eyes partners and other nations, such as the Canada Defence Advisory Groups (DAGs), Defence and DVA have agreed on the following:
 - Purpose: To offer specialised knowledge and commentary on emerging issues relevant to improving the wellbeing of serving and ex-serving members.
 - Scope: To advise on current and emerging national and international research trends, priorities, and strategic opportunities for research, as it pertains to military and veterans' affairs, health care, rehabilitation, and family support and lived experience.
 - Structure: Membership is to comprise experts from government, academia and the private sector who have skills and experience in military and veterans' affairs, health care, rehabilitation and family support.
 - Work is underway to finalise membership recruitment, operating procedures and commencement arrangements.

The RCIC **ENDORSED** the Project Plan for Recommendation 117

Any other business

The Royal Commission Implementation Lead provided an overview of the governance framework for implementation activities, outlining how oversight committees across DVA, Defence and PM&C will work together to provide assurance over DVA's response.

The next meeting of the RCIC is scheduled for 21 October 2025.