

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

Summary of Meeting – 19 June 2026

The 74th meeting of the Department of Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held on Friday 19 June 2026. The following policy, programs and initiatives were discussed at the meeting.

Strategy

The Committee noted the verbal update on the Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency, which commences operations from 1 July 2026.

Members discussed a proposed escalation mechanism for issues identified through the Veteran Electronic Information Exchange (VEIE) assurance activity. DVA and Defence are seeking to avoid repeated noncompliance across audit periods by setting clear expectations for timely notification, risk assessment, corrective action and escalation where resolution cannot be agreed.

DVA has a wide range of research projects underway, with the current research projects listed on the department's website. Through the Veteran and Family - Learning and Innovation Network of Knowledge (VF-LINK) partnership, DVA and Phoenix Australia are also developing a five-year DVA Research Strategy and an Enterprise Evaluation Strategy.

Other Business

Veterans' and Families' Hubs (Hubs) deliver integrated support to veterans and families and improve access to local services. These services may include wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services.

The expansion of the Hubs Program is progressing well with multi-year funding and milestone-based grant agreements.

There are now eleven established Hubs delivering support to veterans and their families in Perth, Adelaide, Northern Adelaide, Darwin, Caboolture, Nowra, Hunter, Queanbeyan, Wodonga, Burnie and Hobart.

In the 2025 Federal Election, the Australian Government committed a further \$5 million to establish an additional Hub in Bendigo, Victoria.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the Bendigo Hub grant funding opportunity opened on 17 December 2025 on the GrantConnect platform. The EOI process closed on 13 February 2026. The outcome of this process will be announced in due course.