Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Royal Commission Implementation Committee

Meeting Overview

18 August 2026

Welcome, apologies and conflict of interest

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Royal Commission Implementation Committee (RCIC) met on 18 August 2026 to discuss activities under way to support the delivery of DVA led or joint-led Recommendations.

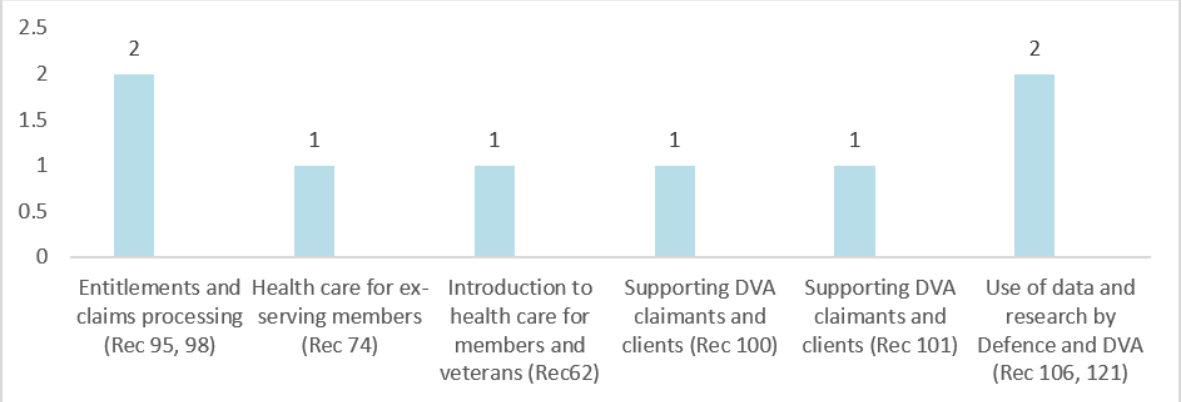
Progress Report

The RCIC noted there are seven recommendations which are considered implemented (pending Milestone Achievement), which was unchanged from the last meeting. The RCIC noted Recommendation 115 was on track to be implemented (pending Milestone Achievement) by 31 August 2026. The RCIC considered draft reporting that outlined progress on all 122 Recommendations from a whole of government perspective and endorsed the expanded reporting moving forward.

Forward Work Plan

The RCIC discussed the Forward Work Plan for 2026. The RCIC agreed that additional meetings would be scheduled for September and November 2026 to allow for consideration of recommendations well in advance of delivery dates to enable timely review and advice.

Recommendations for discussion by theme



Update to Milestone Achievement process

Following endorsement at July meeting of the RCIC, small changes to the template to be used by senior responsible officers were agreed to. While these changes do not change the overall agreed approach, they ensure the template used is aligned more closely with the template used by Defence.

Recommendations for Milestone Achievement

Recommendation 74: Clarify the application of the Privacy Act to veterans to determine whether amendments are necessary and

Recommendation 95: Support the expanded application of presumptive liability, were considered by the RCIC for Milestone achievement.

The RCIC agreed to the request for milestone achievement, pending an updated template be provided at the next meeting of the RCIC.

Recommendations for Update

The RCIC considered updates on **Recommendations 62, 98, 100, 101, 106** and **121.**

- **Recommendation 62:** ***Establish a research translation centre for defence and veteran health care***
    - DVA and Defence are continuing to explore options to support improved translation of research into health care outcomes for serving and ex-serving members and are progressing advice on future implementation arrangements.
- **Recommendation 98:** ***Strengthen Department of Veterans' Affairs performance targets for claims processing timeframes, and improve transparency***
    - Work continues to strengthen performance reporting and transparency relating to claims processing timeframes.
- **Recommendation 100:** ***Improve the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Department of Veterans' Affairs rehabilitation program***
    - Progress continues on measures to improve the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of rehabilitation services, with a focus on performance measurement and stakeholder engagement.
- **Recommendation 101:** ***Give Department of Veterans' Affairs clients more choice and autonomy***
    - Members noted progress in providing greater choice and flexibility for DVA clients and discussed opportunities for consideration of Milestone Achievement.
- **Recommendation 106:** ***Establish a suicide database of serving and ex-serving members***
    - *DVA* and Defence continue to progress work on a suicide data capability to support evidence-based policy development and improved support outcomes.
- **Recommendation 121:** ***Enable research into the health and wellbeing of Defence families***
    - Work continues to enable research into the health and wellbeing of Defence families, supported by significant investment in the research agenda.

The next meeting of the RCIC is scheduled for 22 September 2026