Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Royal Commission Implementation Committee

Meeting Overview

31 July 2026

Welcome, apologies and conflict of interest

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Royal Commission Implementation Committee (RCIC) met on 31 July 2026 to discuss activities under way to support the delivery of DVA led or joint-led Recommendations.

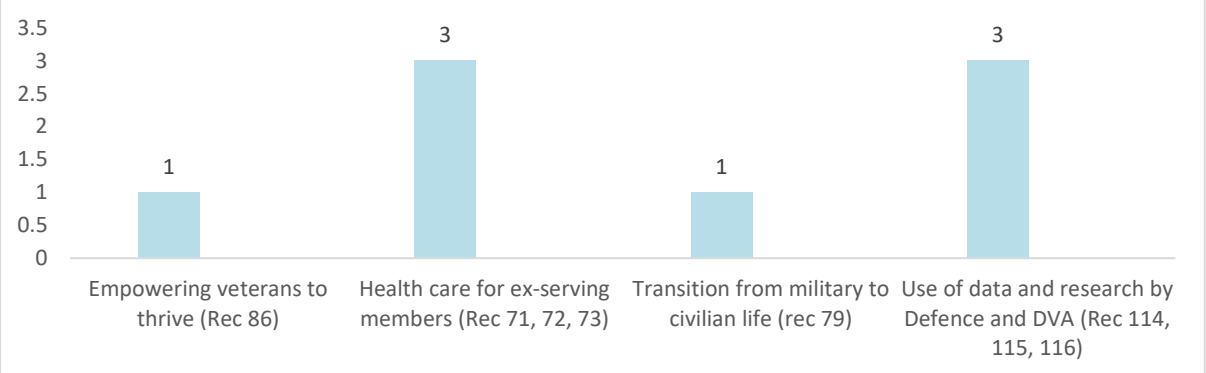
Progress Report

The RCIC noted there are seven DVA led or joint-led recommendations that are considered implemented (pending closure/Milestone Achievement), including Recommendation 87, representing an increase of one from the previous meeting.

Forward Work Plan

The RCIC discussed the proposed Forward Work Plan for 2026, emphasising the importance of sequencing recommendations well in advance of delivery dates to enable timely review and advice.

Recommendations for discussion by theme



Veterans' Ministerial Council Priorities

The RCIC noted the update on engagement with States and Territories following the meeting of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Committee (CSTC) on 16 June 2026 and Veterans' Ministerial Council (VMC) on 27 July 2026.

RCIC members noted the update and reinforced the benefits of continued engagement through both the CSTC and VMC as work continues to implement the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Milestone Achievement (closure process)

The RCIC noted the paper on Milestone Achievement, including:

- On 20 January 2026, the RCIC approved the 'Milestone Achievement' approach for DVA's delivery and closure of Royal Commission recommendations and associated reform activities.
- It was agreed that a phased approach would be adopted, comprising of three milestone statuses:
    - Recommendation Implemented
    - Additional Reforms Delivered
    - Outcomes and Benefits Embedded.
- Milestone achievement criteria are consistent with the required evidence of delivery against recommendations as outlined by the Royal Commission, the Government's Response and Departmental Project Plans.

Recommendations for Update

The RCIC noted the updates for **Recommendations 71, 72, 73, 79, 86, 114, 115 and 116**

Recommendation 71: Increase DVA's fee schedule so it is aligned with that of the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Recommendation 72: Expand and strengthen healthcare services for veterans

Recommendation 73: Improve military cultural competency in health professions working with veterans

- Recommendations 71, 72 and 73 were deal with as a cohort with a broad update provided on work underway and planned activities for the remainder of 2026.

Recommendation 79: Ensure that respect for and recognition of service are embedded throughout Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs

- Recommendation 79 was noted as on track with all work progressing in line with the Project plan and Reform Management Plan.

Recommendation 86 Ongoing funding for Veterans' and Families' Hubs

- Next steps towards implementation of Recommendation 86 were noted, with all planned activities on track.

Recommendation 114: Defence and DVA to prioritise research into veteran health and wellbeing, and publish their workplans

Recommendation 115: Defence and DVA to publish their research into veteran health and wellbeing

Recommendation 116: Improve the quality, evaluation, translation and sharing of research findings

- The updates on Recommendations 114, 115 and 116 highlighted progress in strengthening the prioritisation, publication, evaluation and translation of veteran health and wellbeing research through the Veteran and Family Learning and Innovation Network of Knowledge (VF-LINK) partnership.
- Consultation on the DVA Research Strategy has been completed and is informing future research priorities and annual work plans, while key initiatives to improve research accessibility and dissemination are nearing completion.
- Recommendation 114 remains on track, with additional monitoring to ensure delivery, and no significant implementation risks were identified for Recommendations 115 and 116.

Any other business

- The RCIC noted an update on the proposed legislative amendments contained in the Defence Force Discipline Amendment (Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Implementation and Related Measures No. 1) Bill 2026.
- RCIC members considered and endorsed the updated Terms of Reference for the RCIC which were included in the meeting papers.

The next meeting of the RCIC is scheduled for 18 August 2026