SUPPORT FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - CONTINUATION

This measure will continue the development, implementation and promotion of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program ($4.0 million) and provide additional support to veterans who are finding the transition to the civilian workforce challenging ($4.3 million).

It will also support an initiative of the Industry Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Employment to establish a framework to allow businesses to publicly commit to support the employment of veterans.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The aim of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program is to increase employment opportunities for veterans by raising awareness in the Australian business community of the unique skills and experience that veterans can bring to the civilian workplace. This is consistent with the Jobs and Growth measures announced in the 2017-18 Budget.

This measure will continue the development and implementation of the program’s initiatives, including the delivery of annual awards. Further promotion and education about the skills and experience that veterans possess is required to achieve cultural changes within the private sector.

Additional work will be done on the program’s website, and research and evaluation will be undertaken to inform policy development around veterans’ employment.

Infrastructure will also be developed to support a framework for employers to make a public commitment to veterans’ employment. The framework is an initiative of the Industry Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Employment, which was established in 2017 under the program.

Veterans can access services through the Department of Defence’s Career Transition Assistance Scheme (CTAS) for up to 12 months after separation from the ADF. However, these services vary according to the length of a veterans’ ADF service and other factors.

This measure will provide support for veterans who need additional services to secure appropriate employment. It will cover the cost for services such as resume and interview preparation, translation of ADF skills into civilian competencies, mentoring and coaching services pre and post-employment.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Former ADF members, spouses of serving ADF members and businesses seeking to support veterans will benefit from the continuation of the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program. It will also help veterans who are ineligible for vocational support through DVA’s existing rehabilitation or CTAS to prepare for, and transition into, civilian employment.

DATE OF EFFECT

This measure will start on 1 July 2018 with additional transition support starting on 1 July 2020.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

The 2018-19 Budget provides $8.3 million over the forward estimates to support this measure.