



Addressing existing price regulations and below market rate fees in veterans' care

This initiative includes two elements:

- a one-off fee increase for occupational therapists and podiatrists providing services to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) card holders; and
- a comprehensive review of veterans' care arrangements.

Why is this important?

Targeted fee increases will help to ensure sustainable access for DVA clients and strengthen the viability of occupational therapists and podiatrists providing services to DVA clients. This will also provide immediate support to the sustainability of DVA's care and support programs and responding to concerns about fees from these two professions. The fee increases recognise the important role of occupational therapists and podiatrists in supporting DVA clients, particularly older veterans and war widows, to maintain their functional mobility and independence in their own home. This measure builds on an investment of \$94.3 million in the 2020-21 Budget to increase fees for DVA mental health, social worker and community nurse providers.

This initiative also provides funding for a comprehensive review of DVA's Veterans' Home Care, Community Nursing and related arrangements to consider options to address existing price regulations, harmonise program structures, and consider the implications of broader reforms proposed across the care and support sector in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Who will benefit?

This initiative will help to ensure more sustainable access to community care and support services for up to 244,000 DVA clients. This measure will benefit around 5,600 individual occupational therapists and podiatrists providing services to DVA clients.

This initiative will also develop options to further support the care workforce by streamlining DVA arrangements and reducing the regulatory impact for Veterans' Home Care and community nursing providers who deliver services to DVA clients.

Date of effect?

1 July 2021.

How much will this cost?

\$61.9 million over four years.

