



## Pilot of Non-Liability Rehabilitation

This is a new two year pilot program for veterans with vocational and psychosocial rehabilitation needs to access services and support, without requiring them to have lodged a compensation claim.

### Why is this important?

Research has shown that the stress of claiming for injury compensation and the timeframes involved could impact an individual's long-term recovery. The Government recognises that early access to rehabilitation, without the need to await the outcome of a compensation claim, may improve social, health and financial outcomes for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families. This initiative builds on existing mechanisms and improved processes used by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Defence to co-ordinate rehabilitation immediately prior to, and after transition from the ADF, to allow for continuity of care.

The pilot program will:

- help veterans who have not (for whatever reason) made a claim for compensation get access to the rehabilitation support they need;
- raise awareness of the benefits of early engagement with rehabilitation and encourage veterans to participate voluntarily;
- provide a needs-based approach to goal setting and identification of appropriate activities;
- build on existing arrangements for rehabilitation needs and capacity assessment;
- trial streamlined planning and delivery of support services;
- monitor and support veterans' progress and engagement with their rehabilitation program;
- evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot, comparing the expectations and rehabilitation outcomes for veterans, when these services are 'un-coupled' from liability for compensation;
- inform future initiatives to remove barriers to veterans accessing rehabilitation, and
- respond to Recommendation 6.3 from the Productivity Commission report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*.

### Who will benefit?

Any transitioning ADF members and other veterans with an identified need for vocational and/or psychosocial rehabilitation may volunteer to participate in the pilot.

### Date of effect?

Two year pilot commencing 1 January 2022.

### How much will this cost?

\$2.3 million over four years.

