



Productivity Commission Response

This initiative outlines the Government's response to the Productivity Commission's report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*.

Why is this important?

The Government released an interim response to the Productivity Commission's final report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, on 8 October 2020 as part of the 2020-21 Budget, addressing 25 of the 69 recommendations.

The Government's 2021-22 Budget contains nine initiatives that address Productivity Commission recommendations, either in part or full, and build upon the interim response. These include measures that target the lifetime wellbeing and health of veterans and their families and the sustainability of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA's) operations.

The Government remains committed to delivering significant reform to services and supports for veterans and their families, with continued investment to address the recommendations of the Productivity Commission.

The Government's priority in the 2021-22 Budget is to ensure DVA is adequately resourced to address the demands upon its services, especially the processing of compensation claims, and continuing to support the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

Across the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Budgets and the interim response, the Government has invested over \$386 million to address the important recommendations relating to the more immediate needs of the veteran community.

The remaining recommendations primarily relate to structural and legislative reform, including those proposing harmonisation of entitlements across the existing three veteran acts.

These recommendations will now be pursued via a legislation reform roadmap that will be developed in consultation with the veteran community. Any changes will require consideration by Government through the normal annual Budget process.

The Government believes major reform of the veteran support system, particularly to legislation and entitlements, should be carefully considered and implemented incrementally to limit disruption and ensure it best meets the future needs of our veterans and their families.

DVA and the Department of Defence will continue to progress recommendations that improve operations between the Departments and deliver better outcomes for veterans and their families.

The Government will finalise any outstanding matters from the Productivity Commission as part of its response to the recently announced Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide once it is completed.

How much will this cost?

The initiatives announced that relate to Productivity Commission recommendations total \$175.3 million.

