



## Supporting suicide prevention and responding to the Royal Commission

This initiative provides funding over two years to enhance the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) capacity to support veteran suicide prevention efforts.

It will provide funding to strengthen DVA's capability to provide timely and high-quality information to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

### Why is this important?

Suicide prevention is a key priority for the Government.

The death by suicide of any Australian Defence Force (ADF) member or veteran is a tragedy – for the family, the ADF and veteran community, and the wider Australian community.

These measures provide:

- \$2.6 million over two years for a targeted adverse events analysis capability in DVA to look in depth at veteran deaths by suspected suicide, attempted suicide, or other key events at the time they occur. This creates important learning and change opportunities to address emerging trends and risk factors quickly.
- \$3.7 million over 12 months for strengthening DVA's capability to provide timely and high-quality information to the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, to better understand and respond to systemic trends and risk factors.
- \$22.5 million over two years for DVA to produce extensive records and evidence, and make available witnesses, and deliver timely and high-quality information to assist the Royal Commission. It is essential that every effort is made to assist the Royal Commission.

These elements enable more informed and targeted policy development, program design and services that support suicide prevention and veteran mental health. Veterans deserve to know that all efforts are being undertaken to understand and address the risk factors for suicide. The work of the Royal Commission will inform recommendations for change and it is vital that these recommendations are well informed and evidence-based.

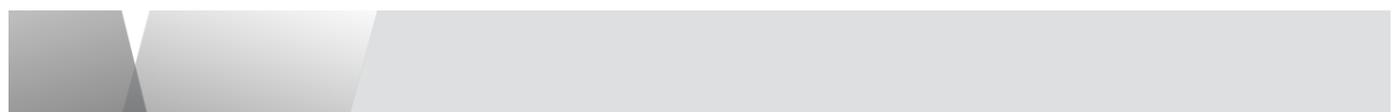
### Who will benefit?

Suicide prevention for serving and ex-serving ADF members is a critical issue. DVA supports more than 225,000 veterans and 100,000 dependants.

Supporting the Royal Commission will support suicide prevention efforts for the Defence and veteran communities.

### Date of effect?

1 July 2021.





## How much will this cost?

\$28.9 million over two years.

