



Supporting veteran wellbeing through early access to medical treatment

This initiative continues the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment program (PAMT) for the 2021-22 financial year, which provides timely access to Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) funded health treatment for 20 common service-related conditions while the veteran's claim for these conditions is being processed. Eligibility for the program will be extended for one year until 30 June 2022. Eligible veterans who lodge claims before this date will be able to receive treatment until 31 December 2022.

Why is this important?

The PAMT program provides access to medical treatment for the 20 most commonly claimed conditions while veterans are waiting for their claims under the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (Defence-Related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) and *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) to be processed.

PAMT reduces the financial hardship some veterans encounter in seeking health treatment prior to liability being established. This can be a barrier to accessing treatment, particularly for transitioning ADF members who have had their health care provided by Defence throughout their military careers. Under the program veterans are not out of pocket because they do not have to pay medical costs upfront and then apply for reimbursement.

Providing veterans with early access to funded treatment promotes recovery and prevents conditions from worsening and has the added benefit of reducing the long-term costs to the Australian health system.

Who will benefit?

Former serving Australian Defence Force members who lodge liability claims for the 20 most commonly claimed conditions under the DRCA and the MRCA will benefit under the program.

To date, more than 20,000 veterans and their families have benefitted from this initiative.

Early access to treatment for service-related medical conditions provides veterans with the best opportunity to recover and ensure they are fit and able to engage and participate in their local community, with their family and friends and to undertake meaningful activities in the civilian context including employment.

Date of effect?

1 July 2021.

How much will this cost?

\$16.9 million over two years.