

Department of Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs
Links Steering Committee

Summary of Meeting – 12 June 2020

The 52nd meeting of the Defence/DVA Links Steering Committee (DLSC) was held in Canberra on 12 June 2020. The following matters were discussed at the meeting.

Policy, Programme and Initiatives

The Committee was informed of progress on a number of initiatives to improve services for transitioning and in-service members. This included the continued enhanced delivery of DVA services on ADF bases through Veteran Support Officers.

The Committee was also informed of the development of a Case Management model of care for the cohort of veterans who are age under 30 and are transitioning from the ADF for medical or administrative reasons.

The Committee also discussed the ongoing work to streamline claims process and reduce red-tape between Defence and DVA, and reduce the overall time taken to process members' subsequent claims for services and support in the future by dealing with liability early and efficiently.

This work may alleviate some of the difficulties that may be encountered by veterans when making an initial claim for liability sometime after the injury was sustained or a disease was contracted. Where the claim for liability is made reasonably contemporaneously, there will be greater evidence available to support the claim, which will likely enable faster initial liability decisions to be made.

Reports Back

The Committee was provided with an update on a range of other issues, including improved information sharing between the two Departments.

The Committee also noted how each Department is managing the COVID-19 impacts on Veterans including those that are contemplating or in the process of transitioning.

Other Business

Members noted the ongoing collaboration between Defence and DVA across a range of initiatives and the tangible outcomes that these are having for veterans and their families.