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2010-11 Highlights

New Studies endorsed for funding
During 2010-11, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Applied Research Program (ARP) considered 30 new research proposals of which 12 were formally endorsed for funding.

Of the $2.4m allocated, actual utilisation was $2.0m:
- $1.7m for continuing projects approved in previous years;
- $0.3m for new projects approved during the financial year [Out year costs for the next four years are as follows: $1,141,561 (2011-12); $353,174 (2012-13); $87,203 (2013-14); and $0 (2014-15)].

Unspent funds of $0.4m is attributable mainly to timeline slippages of some funded projects, and final invoices not being received as scheduled.

The 12 endorsed research proposals encompassed the following broad topics:
- overall health and wellbeing of veterans (particularly older veterans);
- needs of younger veterans and serving ADF members;
- mental health and/or brain injury;
- service needs for reservists;
- service needs for former peacekeepers; and
- integrity of DVA data.

Dissemination of ARP funded research
DVA funded research projects were widely disseminated via:
- DVA research seminars (four seminars showcasing eight ARP projects),
- Industry journals (four projects),
- conference presentations (three ARP projects at five industry conferences), and
- Research@DVA Newsletter.

ARP research findings contributed towards building the evidence base for DVA policies and programs in the following priority areas:
- younger veterans and peacekeepers who are an increasing proportion of DVA’s clients;
- the impact of multiple deployments on the health and well being of veterans;
- the specific needs of female veterans; and;
- the different experiences and needs of reservists.

Review of existing ARP administrative governance processes
During 2010-11, an external consultant was engaged to evaluate the administrative and governance processes related to the ARP. As a result of this evaluation, several changes to the ARP are planned and should be implemented in 2011-12. These will result in a more efficient process of assessing applications and will reduce the time spent by business areas in reviewing applications and dealing with requests for sponsorship.
1. Overview

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) has a long history of supporting research to improve the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families. This support has included partnerships with specialist research centres, funding under specific government initiatives and commissioning research through the Applied Research Program (ARP).

Research funded under the ARP assists the Department identify the health and wellbeing needs of veterans and ADF members (serving and former), develop informed policies and deliver improved services to benefit the veteran and defence communities.

The ARP operates within an annual appropriation of approximately $2.4 million, for contracting research from universities and leading research organisations according to DVA’s identified priorities and needs.

Research priorities

The purpose of the ARP is to commission research that informs the strategic development, implementation and improvement of DVA policy and service delivery.

In December 2010, the Repatriation Commission endorsed the following four priority categories as the framework for deciding on research projects to be funded by the ARP:

1. Contemporary veterans’ and ADF members’ (serving and former) issues and transition from the Australian Defence Force.
   *Including specific deployments, multiple deployments, recent war service, peacekeeper issues and transition from the military to civilian occupation/lifestyle.*

2. Veterans’ and ADF members’ (serving and former) physical and mental health needs: A wellness approach.
   *Including early intervention, resilience, rehabilitation, compensation, veterans’ families and women’s health.*

3. Ageing issues for veterans, ADF members (serving and former) and war widows.
   *Including social isolation, dementia and other aged care issues.*

4. Promoting the use of DVA data
   *including health and welfare status data, comparative data, technology and linkages with third party research.*

These remained unchanged across 2010/11.

DVA’s *Strategic Plan 2010-2015* highlights research as an important conduit to achieve the Department’s goal of increasing knowledge surrounding the longer term impact of its changing client demographics, needs and capabilities.

In particular, four emerging issues were endorsed by the Repatriation Commission in December 2010 as requiring further research to inform DVA’s policy, program design and service delivery:

- Younger veterans and peacekeepers, who are an increasing proportion of the Department’s clients;
The impact of multiple deployments on the health and well being of veterans;

The specific needs of female veterans; and

The different experiences and needs of reservists.

**Broader alignment of priorities**

The ARP is aligned with relevant government research priorities and strategies, including the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Research under the ARP also aligns with the National Research Priorities, published by the Australian Research Council. DVA research predominantly fits within the “Promoting and Maintaining Good Health” priority and the sub themes of “Ageing well, ageing productively”, “Preventative Healthcare” and “Strengthening Australia’s social and economic fabric”.

**Governance**

In 2010-11, the Repatriation Commission had oversight of the ARP. It was supported in this function by a two-tiered assessment framework (see Figure 1):

- the ARP Research Working Group (ARP-RWG) assesses the comparative merits of research proposals using defined assessment criteria (see Appendix 1); and

- the ARP Research Committee (ARP-RC) reviews and recommends new research proposals for endorsement by the Repatriation Commission.

The ARP Terms of Reference set out the objectives of both the ARP Research Working Group and the ARP Research Committee (see Appendix 2).

Once approved for funding, ARP projects are managed by the DVA business area that will be the primary end user of the specific research being undertaken. For this reason, every proposal submitted must be sponsored by a DVA business area. This helps ensure that research is more likely to meet the needs and requirements of DVA.

ARP management processes, including the ARP-RWG and the ARP-RC, are administered by DVA’s Strategic Research and Development (SRD) Section. The SRD Section also provides assistance in contract management and other governance matters to the sponsoring business areas.

There were four ARP funding rounds for 2010-11. The ARP-RWG met on five occasions and the ARP-RC met three occasions during 2010-11 (see Appendix 3 for dates).

Membership of the ARP Research Working Group (at National Manager level) and the ARP Research Committee (at General Manager level) is listed at Appendix 4.
Figure 1: DVA Assessment Framework for New Research Proposals

Discussion of research proposal following submission of Expression of Interest by researcher

Researcher → Application submitted to ARP

ARP Research Working Group

Comparative assessment

ARP Research Committee

Recommendations for funding

Repatriation Commission

Endorses projects recommended for funding

DVA business area for sponsorship

Sponsoring business area negotiates contract and manages project

DVA business area for sponsorship
Newly Funded Projects in 2010-11

The ARP considered 30 new research proposals in 2010-11, of which 12 were endorsed for funding. Of these, four projects commenced during the financial year, one project was cancelled and the remaining projects were scheduled to commence in 2011-12.

The total amount of funding allocated to new projects in 2010-11 was $1,008,855. Please note, an additional $45,000 in funding was granted for a project that had originally been approved in 2009-10. The details of this project have been included in Table 1.

Thirteen proposals were declined because they did not align with DVA’s research priorities or were not veteran specific. Of the remaining proposals, two were declined due to the absence of key information, two were declined solely because they did not constitute good value for money and one was declined due to the impact of new client service models not being known at that time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Expected Duration</th>
<th>Status at end June 2011</th>
<th>Allocated Funding (GST Exc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1005:</strong> Systematic Evaluative Review of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Mental Health Group Treatment Programs Funded by DVA (extra funding for existing program)</td>
<td>7 months</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1016:</strong> Life After War: The Lives and Deaths of Australian Imperial Forces (1st) 1919 – 1970, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Project cancelled</td>
<td>$169,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1021:</strong> Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) Program, University of Sydney</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1023:</strong> A Literature Review of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in the Context of the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Operational Area, University of Adelaide</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>$77,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1025:</strong> Allostatic Load and Physiological and Psychological Health Outcomes: a Literature Review, Centre for Military and Veterans Health</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>$25,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1026:</strong> Review of DVA Data Integrity</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1034:</strong> Exploring Future Service Needs of Australian Defence Force Reservists: a Pilot Study, Australian National University</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1037:</strong> Health and Lifestyle Risk Factors Profile of NSW: DVA Cardholders Using 45 and Up Study Baseline Data, The Sax Institute</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$74,415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1: Newly funded Research Projects 2010-11 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Expected Duration</th>
<th>Status at end June 2011</th>
<th>Allocated Funding (GST Exc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1038</strong>: Veterans of the Rwanda Deployment 1994/95: Understanding Outcomes 15 Years On, Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health</td>
<td>10 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$169,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1105</strong>: Sleep and Falling in Older Veterans: Prevalence of Subjective Sleep Difficulties in Community-Dwelling Older Fallers, National Ageing Research Institute</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$38,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1106</strong>: Comparison of DVA Clients’, ADF Members’ and the General Populations’ Responses to the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$50,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1107</strong>: Younger Veterans’ Transition to Civilian Occupations: The Role of Further Education, NILS</td>
<td>11 months</td>
<td>Contract under negotiation</td>
<td>$88,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1120</strong>: Social Policy Research into the Service Needs of Younger Clients</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,053,855(^1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: See actual expenditure in Section 5.

Continuing ARP Projects in 2010-11

Twenty five (25) research projects endorsed in previous years continued into 2010-11 under the management of DVA business areas, with oversight by the ARP Research Committee. Of these, six that commenced prior to the reporting period were completed by June 2010.

Table 2: Continuing ARP Projects in 2010-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract end Date</th>
<th>Status and end June 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0625</strong>: Research into the long-term effects on mental health status, health service use and quality of life of peacekeeping or peacemaking deployments among Australian veterans</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0710</strong>: Promoting the use of Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment of Posttraumatic Mental Health Problems</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) includes additional $45,000 funding for ARP1005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract end Date</th>
<th>Status and end June 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0717</strong>: Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Safety, Rehabilitation Compensation Act 1988 beneficiaries population modelling project</td>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0721</strong>: Social Isolation within Veteran Community</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0801</strong>: Needs of spouse carers of World War II veterans before and after widowhood</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0903</strong>: The wellbeing of female Vietnam and contemporary veterans: an ethnography of military health personnel</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0904</strong>: The long-term causal effects of Vietnam war era conscription on the economic and social outcomes of Australian conscripts</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0905</strong>: The current status of management of Australian veterans taking warfarin</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Variation being negotiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0907</strong>: Sequelae of psychiatric conditions and multisymptom illness: Follow up mortality and cancer incidence and analysis of serum samples for paraoxanase in the Gulf War veteran cohort</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0908</strong>: A pragmatic trial of the implementation of a balance screening and home exercise program through existing community health services</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0910</strong>: The health and service needs of older veterans: A longitudinal analysis</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0913</strong>: Sleeping and falling in older people: A pilot study</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0915</strong>: Indigenous Australian soldiers' contribution to conflicts and peacekeeping involvements since the Boer War - Literature review</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0920</strong>: Veterans’ attitudes toward the experience of dementia - An Australian study</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2: Continuing ARP Projects in 2010-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract end Date</th>
<th>Status and end June 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0925</strong>: Development of data linkage key for Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel data set and blood samples (F-111 Deseal/Reseal personnel)</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0927</strong>: An analysis of the long-term costs of disability arising from the Vietnam war</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0929</strong>: Best Practice approach to assess potential functional decline among older veterans</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0930</strong>: The effectiveness of VVCS Heart Health Program in improving veteran health</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP0931</strong>: Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in veterans research: Exploring the influence of posttraumatic stress disorder and war time experiences</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1001</strong>: Financial Stress / Hardship Amongst DVA Pensioners</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1004</strong>: Review of Operation <em>Life</em> suicide awareness workshops</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1005</strong>: Independent review of DVA’s contracted Posttraumatic Stress Disorder mental health group treatment programs</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1010</strong>: Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) long term outcomes study: to investigate whether the current counselling practices utilised by VVCS result in sustained changes to mental health outcomes</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1019</strong>: Research Consultant to develop framework for Applied Research Program</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARP1020</strong>: Review of processes and timeframes in compensation and income support claim processing</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. ARP Continuous Improvement

External Evaluation of the ARP

During 2010-11, an external consultant was engaged to evaluate the administrative and governance processes related to the ARP. As a result of this evaluation, several changes to the ARP are planned. These will result in a more efficient process of assessing applications and will reduce the time spent by business areas in reviewing applications and dealing with requests for sponsorship. It is thought that this, in turn, will result in a closer and more productive relationship between business areas and successful applicants.

Recommendations from the external consultant will be considered for submission to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission in early 2012. Any changes to the ARP governance process can only be implemented after approval by the Commission.

Business Area Advice and Consultation

Throughout the year, Strategic Research Development (SRD) Section staff supplied business areas with information on the latest research findings relevant to their business through ongoing environmental scans and also provided research advice to business areas upon request. This advice included information about relevant findings from research funded by DVA, links to Australian and international research, assistance with judging research methodologies and advice on DVA research policy and procedures.

DVA business areas were consulted during the year to consider potential areas for future research. This assisted the SRD Section to better direct research proposals to possible sponsoring business areas, and advise researchers on DVA’s research interests and priorities.

Utilisation of Research Findings

During 2010/11 SRD staff, in consultation with Project Sponsors and the ARP Research Committee, have identified that there may be scope to improve the use of research findings by DVA. Plans are being developed to address this issue during 2011/12. Measures taken will not only ensure better utilisation of research findings within the Department, but a broader and more effective means of disseminating findings.

Social Health Research Guide

An internal study was conducted in 2010-11, which listed and described research projects commissioned by DVA into social health issues in the past decade. Whilst this study was conducted purely for internal purposes, its findings are far-reaching for research within DVA. Presentation of the project to a group of Men’s Health Peer Education volunteers prompted an examination of how the findings of research could be of use to the Veteran community, as long as it is made readily accessible to the community.
Similarly, feedback from DVA staff was that it is important to know how research findings have been applied, or why the research was conducted in the first place, but that this historical information is not always readily available.

As a result, further communication strategies have been developed for the ARP to address these issues. This strategy will be implemented within the next year and will be reviewed annually.
3. Findings of ARP Projects completed in 2010-11

ARP research findings contribute towards DVA evidence-based policies and programs. The major ARP research projects completed during 2010-11 ranged across most of DVA’s research priorities (see page 5 of this report) and the key findings are summarised below.

Physical Health

DVA-funded research on the physical health of veterans covers a wide range of topics including the better use of medicines and the management of specific health conditions.

**ARP0930 – The Effectiveness of VVCS Heart Health Program in Improving Veteran Health**

Associate Professor Dr Meaghan O’Donnell  
Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health  
Sponsored by the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

This study aimed to examine whether participation in the Heart Health program associated with significant improvements in physical and mental health outcomes upon completion of the program and at 6 months following completion. There is a perception among veterans that the Heart Health program is very beneficial in terms of increasing exercise activity, improved mood, and improved social health, yet participants have identified that, upon completion of the program, there are barriers to the maintenance of exercise activity. This research was designed to investigate fully the effectiveness of the program using existing and newly collected data. It also aimed to identify barriers to maintaining exercise levels, as well as identifying areas of the program that are less useful.

The research identified that all the physical measures and most of the psychological measures showed significant improvement following the program. However, while quality of life in the physical domain showed a robust change, improvements in psychological, social and environmental aspects of quality of life were less consistent.

Mental Health

One of the most extensive areas of research for DVA is mental health. Two mental health projects were completed in the reporting period.

**ARP1023 - A Literature Review of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) in the Context of the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Operational Area**

Professor Alexander McFarlane  
University of Adelaide  
Sponsored by the Research Grants, Consultation and Coordination Group

This study aimed to summarise existing literature exploring the physical and mental effects of being exposed to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), as well as the effects improved technology in body armour and armoured personnel carriers have had on the mechanisms of mild traumatic brain injuries, so as to inform DVA of the issues for diagnosis, rehabilitation and potential liabilities arising from current serving members who sustain such exposures.
The literature review identified that there were a number of issues that need to be considered by researchers and clinicians when assessing suspected concussion/mTBI cases. The potential exists for explanations other than concussion that account for reported loss of awareness and/or memory, poor specificity and major overlap of symptoms that define residual complaints of concussion with psychiatric conditions, and overlap in areas of the brain implicated in concussion and psychiatric co-morbidities.

**ARP0710 – Promoting the Use of Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment of Posttraumatic Mental Health Problems**

Associate Professor Virginia Lewis  
Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health  
Sponsored by the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

This study aimed to increase knowledge on the most effective ways to promote best practice amongst mental health practitioners offering treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder to veterans in a community setting.

Key questions asked during the study included:
- What do mental health practitioners believe contributes to their choice not to use recommended practices?
- How effective is a model promoting best practice that includes engaging staff and management in identifying barriers and incentives to using best practice, providing training and follow-up, and keeping clients informed.

**Social Health**

In addition to physical and mental health, other factors affect the capacity of veterans and ex-service members to remain well and access health services. As a result, DVA’s research interests include social and related health issues.

**ARP0721 – Social Isolation Within the Veteran Community**

Ms Susan Garner  
Grosvenor Management Consulting Pty Ltd  
Sponsored by the Community and Aged Care Policy Group

This study aimed to identify the effects of military service on social isolation among younger members of the veteran community: which factors increase or decrease the risk of social isolation, how are these factors related, what is the role of and impacts on veterans’ carers, and how can the evidence base be improved for policy-making?

The literature review component identified that the existing literature on the health and social wellbeing of veterans does not directly address social isolation among veterans, nor does it address the experiences and needs of younger veterans.

However, major components of existing literature included themes relating to:
- War as a special kind of major life event that impacts differently on individuals depending on their background factors, the nature of the war and combat exposure, and
The effects of war on health and wellbeing among veterans. The discussion about health and wellbeing includes material on economic participation and wellbeing, social support and networks, marriage and family life. These themes are the closest that the scientific literature came to addressing the concepts of social isolation.

Other key gaps in research literature were identified in relation to the experience of military service, predisposing vulnerabilities and resilience, socio-demographic factors, and health outcomes as factors that could increase or decrease the risk of social isolation for veterans returning after military service.

Ageing issues for veterans and war widow(er)s

As veterans and war widow(er)s age, new health concerns and other issues can arise or take priority. DVA funded research has explored a range of these matters including the need for rehabilitation appliances and a productive ageing experience.

ARP0929 – Best Practice Approach to Assess Potential Functional Decline Among Older Veterans

Professor Karen Grimmer-Somers
University of South Australia
Sponsored by the Community and Aged Care Policy Group

This study aimed to establish the current evidence base, using a systematic literature review framework, on different approaches for screening and/or identifying functional decline in older veterans. It aimed to address the following questions:

- What is the current evidence on the health status of older veterans?
- What, if any, differences are reported in the health status of older veterans and their non-veteran counterparts?
- What is the current evidence on the predictors of functional decline in older veterans?
- What is the current evidence on strategies or approaches to screen or identify functional decline in older veterans?

The literature review identified that:

- Older veterans have poor physical functions and experience difficulty in activities of daily living. Presence of more than one chronic condition was a common finding among the veteran population.
- Literature regarding cognitive functioning of older veterans was inconsistent. However, most reports agreed that the individual’s health, mood, literacy, education levels and socio-economic status were predictors of cognitive function.
- A relatively low proportion of older veterans suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Very few studies compared veteran population with the non-veteran population. There is limited evidence to suggest that veterans were less active than non-veterans. They also experience falls and balance problems with a relatively higher proportion compared with their non-veteran counterparts.
- Only one instrument for screening, the Geriatric Postal Screening Survey, was found during this review. This screening process can identify older outpatients with multiple geriatric syndromes who are at increased risk for hospital use and nursing home admission.
Use of DVA Data

DVA data has been used for several of the projects listed above, as well as others focused specifically on understanding DVA client needs and experiences.

**ARP0717 – Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Safety, Rehabilitation Compensation Act 1988 Beneficiaries Population Modelling Project**

Ms Susan Antcliff  
Australian Government Actuary  
Sponsored by the Rehabilitation, Compensation & Income Support Policy Group

This study aimed to forecast the MRCA and SRCA clients of DVA. This included indicators of whether individuals are actively in receipt of benefits, have been but are not currently and those individuals who have not approached DVA. Also, the study attempted to identify varying propensity levels in relation to claiming.

Management and funding of this project was taken over by another area of DVA before work was completed.

**ARP1020 – Review of Processes and Timeframes in Compensation and Income Support Claim Processing**

Mr Keith Lewis  
Oakton Services Pty Ltd  
Sponsored by the Organisational Change Group

This study aimed to compare the current processing times with the established benchmarks for Income Support, VEA, SRCA and MRCA processing. The study attempted to identify aspects of the process that may prolong the granting of benefits to applicants. Once identified, recommendations were made to more effectively measure time taken to process and provide useful parameters to senior management on which they can base operational decisions.

The scope of the project was to review and identify primary liability determination claims for VEW, SRCA and MRCA, and:
- Claims made on DVA by eligible veterans
- Processing times of those claims
- Disparity of processing times with the established benchmarks
- The effectiveness of DVA IT systems.

Key findings included:
- DVA accountability for time taken to process begins upon acceptance of a completed application form. As such, it is recommended that time taken to process should be measured from the time a case is registered, to when the benefit is realised.
- DVA is currently held responsible for a period of time in which it is unable to influence the response time of third parties. Further DVA resources will not alleviate this situation.
- DVA documentation and web sites should clearly reflect that non-compliant cases will be returned to the claimant, with an explanation.
- An impediment to meeting the required time frames appears to be gaps in the knowledge of the SRCA and MRCA assessment teams.
• Reporting should focus on case types that form the bulk of DVA work. Lower impact cases could be reported in summary form.

• Many errors in initial claims can be attributed to claimants being unsure of their entitlements. This confusion is partly caused by there being three acts under which people can make a claim. Redesign of the DVA web site, or implementation of a web-based predictive model can assist a claimant, which would then reduce the processing time.
4. Communicating the results of ARP-funded research

In 2010-11, DVA research was widely presented, published and utilised. Primary methods of dissemination of DVA research include the research seminar series, publication in academic journals and presentations at various Australian and international research conferences. The findings from ARP research projects are utilised by DVA to enhance knowledge and improve policy and service delivery regarding various health and wellbeing issues faced by clients.

**DVA Research Seminar Series**

The research seminar series is held quarterly and showcases key ARP funded DVA, Defence, health and social science research findings. The seminar series, usually chaired by the Repatriation Commissioner, attract attendees from the veteran and defence communities, government agencies, research bodies and academic institutions.

The well attended seminars are held in the DVA office in Canberra and are broadcast to all DVA state offices and Veterans Affairs Network offices via video conference. The seminars are recorded on DVD, which are available for viewing at all DVA state offices. The presentation slides from the Research Seminars are available for distribution through the Secretariat, Applied Research Program (see page 2 of this report for details).

These seminars are becoming widely known as a forum for high quality research and as such, audience attendance has grown markedly over the past twelve months. Rather than mainly being attended by DVA employees, the research seminars are now well attended by Ex-Service Organisations, other Commonwealth agencies, representatives of the ADF and external research organisations.

**August 2010  Welfare and Wellbeing**

**ARP0721  Research into Social Isolation in the Australian Veteran Community**

Assoc Prof. Helen Berry  
Dr Caroline Evans  
Ms Susan Garner  
Grosvenor Management Consulting Pty Ltd

**ARP0914  Contemporary Factors Influencing Healthy and Productive Ageing for Women in Late Middle Age in the DVA Context**

Assoc Prof Susan Treloar  
Alison MacKenzie  
Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health

**November 2010  Transition**

**ARP0715  Readjustment to ‘Normal’: Military Families and Reservists**

Ms Margaret Palmer
Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health

**ARP0712**  
A Learning Collaborative to Improve Transition Mental Health and Family Supports to Medically Discharging ADF Members  
Dr Darryl Wade  
Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health

March 2011  
**The Veterans’ MATES Program**  
Veterans’ MATES – Improving Medicine Use and Health Outcomes for Veterans  
Ms Libby Roughhead  
University of South Australia  

*Informing Medication Safety and Effectiveness using DVA Data*  
Ms Libby Roughhead  
Ms Nicole Pratt  
University of South Australia

June 2011  
**Research in Practice for the Benefit of the Veteran Community**  
**ARP0622**  
The VVCS Multisite Randomised Controller Effectiveness Trial of Cognitive Processing Therapy for Combat-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (ARP0622)  
Assoc Prof. David Forbes  
Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health  
Dr Des Perry  
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

**ARP0522**  
Implementation of a Balance Screening and Home Exercise Program Through Community Health Services  
Ms Claudia Meyer  
National Ageing Research Institute

**Publications**

DVA supports the dissemination of the findings of ARP research in academic journals. In 2010-11, the DVA supplied reviews and comments for the articles below, prior to submission to academic journals.

**ARP0419**  

Development of a Best Practice Mental Health Screening and Referral Pathway for Community Nursing Care of Veterans and War Widow(er)s

Allen J, Annells M, Nunn R, Petrie E, Clark E, Lang L and Robina A; Evaluation of Effectiveness and Satisfaction Outcomes of a Mental Health Screening and Referral Clinical Pathway for Community Nursing Care.


The wellbeing of Female Vietnam and Contemporary Veterans: An Ethnography of Military Health Personnel

Crompvoets S. The Health and Wellbeing of Female Veterans: A review of the Literature.

*Journal of Military and Veterans Health.* Yet to be published.

Development of a Data Linkage Key for Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel Data Set and Blood Samples (F-111 Deseal / Reseal Personnel)


**Conference Presentations**

During the year, DVA sponsors of ARP research projects provided reviews and comments prior to the following submissions being accepted for presentation at Australian and international research conferences.

A Pragmatic Trial of the Implementation of a Balance Screening and Home Exercise Program Through Existing Community Health Services


*International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Regional Conference;* Melbourne; October 2011.

The Long-Term Causal Effects of Vietnam War-Era Conscription on the Economic and Social Outcomes of Australian Conscripts

Siminski P; Long-Run Mortality Effects of Vietnam-Era Army Service: Evidence
From Australia’s Conscription Lotteries; Australian Military Medicine Association Conference; Melbourne; October 2011.

Siminski P; Employment Effects of Army Service and Veterans’ Compensation: Evidence From the Australian Vietnam-Era Conscription Lotteries.

Econometric Society Australasian Meeting; Adelaide; July 2011

The Use and Impact of Cancer Medicines in Real World Clinical practice: Evaluation in a Cohort of Elderly Australians
Stavrou E, Buckley N & Pearson S; Cancer Chemotherapy and Depression in Older Patients.

Australasian Epidemiology Association Annual Conference; Perth, September 2011.

Stavrou E, Buckley N & Pearson S; The Role of Comorbidity in the Uptake of Chemotherapy and Cancer Survival.

27th International conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management; Chicago USA, August 2011.

Other Dissemination Activities

Research@DVA Newsletter
The Research@DVA newsletter outlines a wealth of information about the ARP and other research conducted by DVA. Internal and external editions were produced quarterly and distributed to DVA staff, researchers, government organisations, non-government organisations and ex-service groups. Topics include findings of ARP research projects, how to assess the quality of research findings, resources available to assist with research and information about ARP governance processes.

DVA Research Register
The DVA Research Register is an internal resource that lists all DVA-supported research, irrespective of funding source, that involves DVA clients or issues. The Register meets the requirement for DVA to report on whole of Government information requests and to inform the ARP Research Committee on all research conducted throughout DVA.
5. Finance

The ARP had $2,134,260 committed to research projects for the financial year 2010-11. Of this, $1,945,991 was for continuing projects approved in previous years and $188,270 was for expenditure in 2010-11 on new projects approved during the financial year. As at 30 June 2011, funds have been allocated for the next four financial years as follows: $1,141,561 (2011-12); $353,174 (2012-13); and $87,203 (2013-14) and $0 (2014-15).

A common issue with funding of research programs is the potential for slippage in project timelines as planned work takes longer than scheduled, or unforeseen obstacles arise. This will then result in delays in supplying deliverables and invoices to DVA, which can then contribute to allocated budgets not being expended. The ARP acknowledged this issue in 2010-11 and began operating in an accrual accounting environment. This allows costs allocated in one financial year to be carried over into another financial year, under certain circumstances.

Out of the $2,134,260 committed in 2010-11, $1,672,401 was spent. The remaining $461,859 was not spent due to timeline slippages of some research projects (which will be spent in 2011/12, as the projects progress) or as per the footnotes below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Allocated 2010-11</th>
<th>Expended 2010-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0625: Research into the long-term effects on mental health status, health service use and quality of life of peacekeeping or peacemaking deployments among Australian veterans</td>
<td>$109,857</td>
<td>$0^2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARP0710: Promoting the use of Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment of Posttraumatic Mental Health Problems</td>
<td>$8,110</td>
<td>$8,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0717: Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 and Safety, Rehabilitation Compensation Act 1988 beneficiaries population modelling project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0721: Social Isolation within Veteran Community</td>
<td>$36,078</td>
<td>$36,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0801: Needs of spouse carers of World War II veterans before and after widowhood</td>
<td>$48,172</td>
<td>$26,670^3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0903: The wellbeing of female Vietnam and contemporary veterans: an ethnography of military health personnel</td>
<td>$69,860</td>
<td>$69,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0904: The long-term causal effects of Vietnam war era conscription on the economic and social outcomes of Australian conscripts</td>
<td>$15,913</td>
<td>$15,913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Deed of Variation signed in December 2010, delaying deliverables and payment schedule.
3 Final invoice not cleared in time for payment this financial year. Costs will carry over to FY2011-12.
Table 3: Applied Research Program Expenditure 2010-11 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>ARP Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0905: The current status of management of Australian veterans taking warfarin</td>
<td>$17,693</td>
<td>$8,063(^4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0907: Sequelae of psychiatric conditions and multi-symptom illness: Follow up mortality and cancer incidence and analysis of serum samples for paraoxanase in the Gulf War veteran cohort</td>
<td>$382,345</td>
<td>$382,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0910: The health and service needs of older veterans: A longitudinal analysis</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0913: Sleeping and falling in people: A pilot study</td>
<td>$30,750</td>
<td>$30,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0915: Indigenous Australian soldiers' contribution to conflicts and peacekeeping involvements since the Boer War - Literature review</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
<td>$0(^5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0920: Veterans' attitudes toward the experience of dementia - An Australian study</td>
<td>$198,223</td>
<td>$100,950(^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0925: Development of data linkage key for Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel data set and blood samples (F-111 Deseal/Reseal personnel)</td>
<td>$3,388</td>
<td>$0(^7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0927: An analysis of the long-term costs of disability arising from the Vietnam war</td>
<td>$37,445</td>
<td>$0(^8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0929: Best Practice approach to assess potential functional decline among older veterans</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0930: The effectiveness of VVCS Heart Health Program in improving veteran health</td>
<td>$153,345</td>
<td>$153,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0931: Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in veterans research: Exploring the influence of posttraumatic stress disorder and war time experiences</td>
<td>$89,525</td>
<td>$60,000(^9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1001: Financial Stress / Hardship Amongst DVA Pensioners</td>
<td>$13,855</td>
<td>$13,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1004: Review of Operation Life suicide awareness workshops</td>
<td>$98,259</td>
<td>$83,520(^{10})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^4\) Final invoice not cleared in time for payment this financial year. Costs will carry over to FY2011-12.

\(^5\) Project was delayed, as ANU Senior Researcher left project.

\(^6\) Payment of final invoice was delayed due to a problem with the Accounts Payable system. Costs will be rolled over to FY 2011-12.

\(^7\) Delay in having contract signed by researcher, resulting in delay to start of project.

\(^8\) Delay in DVA providing linkage data to researcher, resulting in delay to deliverables.

\(^9\) Final invoice not cleared in time for payment this financial year. Costs will carry over to FY2011-12.

\(^{10}\) Delay in deliverables, resulting in invoice being delayed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Allocated 2010-11</th>
<th>Expended 2010-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP1005: Independent review of DVA’s contracted Posttraumatic Stress Disorder mental health group treatment programs</td>
<td>$146,839</td>
<td>103,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1010: Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) long term outcomes study: to investigate whether the current counselling practices utilised by VVCS result in sustained changes to mental health outcomes</td>
<td>$171,000</td>
<td>$171,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1016: Life After War: The Lives and Deaths of Australian Imperial Forces (1st) 1919 – 1970</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1019: Research Consultant to develop framework for Applied Research Program</td>
<td>$41,446</td>
<td>$41,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1020: Review of processes and timeframes in compensation and income support claim processing</td>
<td>$8,903</td>
<td>$8,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1021: Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) Program</td>
<td>$93,334</td>
<td>$93,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1023: A Literature Review of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in the Context of the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Operational Area</td>
<td>$48,977</td>
<td>$48,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1025: Allostatic Load and Physiological and Psychological Health Outcomes: a Literature Review</td>
<td>$25,959</td>
<td>$25,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1026: Review of DVA Data Integrity</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1034: Exploring Future Service Needs of Australian Defence Force Reservists: a Pilot Study</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1037: Health and Lifestyle Risk Factors Profile of NSW: DVA Cardholders Using 45 and Up Study Baseline Data</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1038: Veterans of the Rwanda Deployment 1994/95: Understanding Outcomes 15 Years On</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1105: Sleep and Falling in Older Veterans: Prevalence of Subjective Sleep Difficulties in Community-Dwelling Older Fallers.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1106: Comparison of DVA Clients’, ADF Members’ and the General Population’s Responses to the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1107: Younger Veterans’ Transition to Civilian Occupations: The Role of Further Education</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1120: Social Policy Research into the Service Needs of Younger Clients</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,134,260</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,289,859</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Deed of Variation signed in August 2011, delaying deliverables and payment schedule.
6. Appendices

Appendix 1: The ARP Research Working Group Assessment Criteria

New ARP proposals are scored and ranked against the following selection criteria by the ARP Research Working Group.

1. Benefits for DVA
   - Relevance to DVA (i.e. benefit to the veteran and defence communities);
   - Applied and practical nature of research for DVA business areas;
   - Accordance with DVA strategic directions;
   - Alignment with the current DVA research priority areas; and
   - Degree to which the research informs policy and service delivery, including preliminary scoping work.

2. Financial assessment
   - Value for money based upon Government procurement guidelines; and
   - Availability of ARP funds.

3. Research quality
   - Appropriate expertise in the proposed area of study;
   - Systematic research which increases DVA’s stock of knowledge to inform policy and service provision;
   - Appropriate research methodology; and
   - Sufficient number of participants or data to enable high levels of statistical power.

4. Priority for DVA Project Sponsors
   - Alignment with overall business areas strategic direction; and
   - Merit in relation to other research proposals within the same research field.
Appendix 2: Applied Research Program Terms of Reference

Applied Research Program Research Working Group (ARP-RWG)

The objectives of the ARP-RWG are to advise the ARP Research Committee on:

- the broad strategic directions for DVA research;
- current research that is being conducted throughout DVA, however funded;
- the role that DVA has to play in Australia regarding veteran-related research;
- new research capability requirements, both internally and externally;
- funding proposals; and
- information from conducting literature environmental scans on relevant research nationally and internationally, as directed by the ARP Research Committee.

The membership is a cross section of DVA staff members who have expertise and/or an interest in research. Meetings are scheduled prior to the ARP Research Committee meetings in order to provide appropriate advice to the Committee.

Applied Research Program Research Committee (ARP-RC)

The objectives of the ARP-RC are to recommend and provide to the DVA Repatriation Commission:

- an overarching strategic direction for DVA research and research priorities;
- strategic opportunities with key stakeholders, including CMVH and ACPMH;
- advice received on all research proposals conducted or funded by DVA;
- endorse all research proposals requesting funding from the formal ARP budget (as described in Outcome 2 of the DVA Budget);
- assurance that all sections of DVA are aware of key Executive, Division/Group and State Office accountabilities for research;
- a review of ARP performance and progress;
- information from conducting regular literature environmental scans of relevant research both nationally and internationally; and
- assurance of clearance from the DVA Human Research Ethics Committee, where necessary.

The ARP-RC may seek expert advice from the following sources:

- physical and mental health experts;
- health economists and anthropologists and other related experts;
- statisticians;
- epidemiologists;
- historians; and
- other technical expertise, as required.
Appendix 3: Applied Research Program Important Dates for 2010-11

Funding round closing dates for 2010-11 were as follows:

- **Round 1** – Tuesday 6 July 2010
- **Round 2** – Wednesday 22 September 2010
- **Round 3** – Monday 7 February 2011
- **Round 4** – Monday 2 May 2011

The ARP Research Working Group met on:

- Tuesday 3 August 2010
- Wednesday 20 October 2010 and carried over on Tuesday 2 November 2010
- Tuesday 22 March 2011 and carried over on Friday 25 March 2011

The ARP Research Committee met on:

- Wednesday 29 September 2010
- Tuesday 23 November 2010
- Tuesday 3 May 2011
Appendix 4: ARP Research Working Group and ARP Research Committee Membership 2010-11

In 2010-11, the ARP Research Working Group consisted of the following members:

- National Manager, Research, Grants and Consultation Co-ordination Group (Chair)
- Principal Medical Adviser
- National Manager, Community Care and Aged Care Policy Group
- National Manager, Parliamentary and Communications Group
- National Manager, Primary Care Policy Group
- National Manager, Rehabilitation Compensation and Income Policy Group
- National Manager, Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service
- National Manager Defence Support Services (as appropriate)
- Director, Strategic Research Development Section
- Director, Research Advisory Section

In 2010-11, the ARP Research Committee consisted of the following members:

- Repatriation Commissioner (Chair)
- General Manager, Services Division
- General Manager, Support Division
- General Manager, Corporate Division
- Deputy Commissioner, Victoria
- Deputy Commissioner, South Australia
- Principal Medical Adviser

The ARP Research Committee was supported by the following advisers:

- National Manager, Research Grants and Consultation Co-ordination Group
- Director, Strategic Research Development Section
- Director, Research Advisory Section
### Appendix 5: ARP Projects in 2010-11, by Business Sponsor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0625: Research into the long-term effects on mental health status, health service use and quality of life of peacekeeping or peacemaking deployments among Australian veterans</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0801: Needs of spouse carers of World War II veterans before and after widowhood</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARP0903: The wellbeing of female Vietnam and contemporary veterans: an ethnography of military health personnel</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
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<td>ARP0904: The long-term causal effects of Vietnam war era conscription on the economic and social outcomes of Australian conscripts</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARP0907: Sequelae of psychiatric conditions and multisymptom illness: Follow up mortality and cancer incidence and analysis of serum samples for paraoxanase in the Gulf War veteran cohort</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0925: Development of data linkage key for Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel data set and blood samples (F-111 Deseal/Reseal personnel)</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0927: An analysis of the long-term costs of disability arising from the Vietnam war</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1019: Research Consultant to develop framework for Applied Research Program</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1023: A Literature Review of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in the Context of the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Operational Area, University of Adelaide</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1025: Allostatic Load and Physiological and Psychological Health Outcomes: a Literature Review</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1034: Exploring Future Service Needs of Australian Defence Force Reservists: a Pilot Study</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>ARP1038: Veterans of the Rwanda Deployment 1994/95: Understanding Outcomes 15 Years On</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Community and Aged Care Policy Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0721: Social Isolation within Veteran Community</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0913: Sleeping and falling in older people: A pilot study</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0915: Indigenous Australian soldiers’ contribution to conflicts and peacekeeping involvements since the Boer War - Literature review</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>February 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0920: Veterans’ attitudes toward the experience of dementia - An Australian study</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0929: Best Practice approach to assess potential functional decline among older veterans</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0931: Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in veterans research: Exploring the influence of posttraumatic stress disorder and war time experiences</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1005: Independent review of DVA’s contracted Posttraumatic Stress Disorder mental health group treatment programs</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Primary Care Policy Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0905: The current status of management of Australian veterans taking warfarin</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0910: The health and service needs of older veterans: A longitudinal analysis</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1021: Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) Program, University of Sydney</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARP Project</th>
<th>Commenced</th>
<th>Contract End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP0710: Promoting the use of Evidence-Based Psychological Treatment of Posttraumatic Mental Health Problems</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP0930: The effectiveness of VVCS Heart Health Program in improving veteran health</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP1010: Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) long term outcomes study: to investigate whether the</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
current counselling practices utilised by VVCS result in sustained changes to mental health outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisational Change Group</th>
<th>ARP Project</th>
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<td>ARP1020: Review of processes and timeframes in compensation and income support claim processing</td>
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<td>ARP1026: Review of DVA Data Integrity</td>
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<td>ARP0908: A pragmatic trial of the implementation of a balance screening and home exercise program through existing community health services</td>
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<td>ARP1001: Financial Stress / Hardship Amongst DVA Pensioners</td>
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