Veterans’ Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme (VVRS) How to contact DVA

DVA helps former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families through pensions, compensation, health care, rehabilitation and much more.

For rehabilitation information visit www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/rehabilitation

For mental health information visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

133 254* (Metropolitan Callers)
1800 555 254* (Regional Callers)

* Calls from mobile phones and pay phones may incur additional charges.

Email: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the VVRS affect my general rate disability pension?
If you receive a disability pension between 10% and 100% of the general rate, you will continue to receive your pension even after you find paid employment through the VRRS.

How will the VVRS affect my above general rate disability pension?
If you receive a Special Rate pension and commence employment through the VRS for 20 or more hours per week, the pension payment will gradually reduce to 100% of the general rate, or if you work between 8 and 20 hours per week, the pension payment will gradually reduce to the equivalent of the Intermediate Rate pension.
If you receive an Intermediate Rate pension and work more than 20 hours per week, the pension payment will gradually reduce to 100% of the general rate. You will receive these payments on top of your earnings from employment.
Once you commence employment through the VRS you will retain your pension status and benefits.

How will the VVRS affect my invalidity service pension?
If you receive an invalidity service pension, your pension will be affected when you find paid employment through the VRS. However, only 50% of your earnings are income tested in the first two years. This will gradually increase to 100% of earnings over the following five years. When you commence employment, your eligibility for the Invalidity Service Pension will be retained for seven years.

Are there penalties for withdrawing from the VVRS?
No, you can withdraw from the VVRS at any time without penalty.

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Are there penalties for withdrawing from the VVRS?
No, you can withdraw from the VVRS at any time without penalty.
1. Applying
The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) has programs to help former members of the Australian Defence Force to find or keep a job.
• If you need assistance to obtain or retain paid employment and **have military service before 1 July 2004**, you may be eligible for rehabilitation support through the Veterans’ Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme (VVRS).
• If you have an illness or injury resulting from **your military service after 30 June 2004**, you may be eligible for whole-of-person rehabilitation support from DVA – contact DVA for more information.

If you think the VVRS can help you, send in an application form. The form is on the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au. Search for ‘forms’, and then look for ‘D1000 – Veterans’ Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme (VVRS) Application Form’.

2. Referral
Once your application is accepted, you will be referred to a rehabilitation provider to talk about your current work if you’re employed, your work history, your skills and training, and your interests and goals.

3. Developing the Plan
A tailored rehabilitation plan will be developed with your rehabilitation provider and your doctor or other health professionals to meet your individual needs.
It will include employment options for you, and it will identify any health or other issues that may stop you from getting or keeping a job.

4. Bringing the Plan into Action
You will work with your rehabilitation provider to set goals for employment that will be matched with activities and timelines so you can see how you are going to achieve each goal and how long it will take.
There will be regular reviews of how you’re going so your plan can be adjusted as you make progress or if there are any changes in your circumstances.

5. Reaching Your Goals
When you have obtained employment, monitoring and support can be provided by the rehabilitation provider to assist you to sustain the employment prior to closing the program. You can also withdraw from the VVRS at any time. If in the future you need further help, you can always apply for VRS services again.

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**The VVRS helps with all aspects of your life which could improve your chances to find or keep a job.**

**Examples of what could be included in your rehabilitation plan**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIFE</th>
<th>MIND</th>
<th>BODY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessing your work needs</td>
<td>Learning to focus on achieving your rehabilitation goals</td>
<td>Help with monitoring your health needs and learning about your conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Résumé writing</td>
<td>Time limited interventions to help you adjust to life after an injury</td>
<td>Establishing a regular routine to manage your health and wellbeing needs</td>
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<td>Retraining</td>
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<td>Workplace modifications, aids and appliances</td>
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<td>Help to keep your current job</td>
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<td>Education programs</td>
<td>Programs to provide an improved sense of self-worth and confidence</td>
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<td>Work experience</td>
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**Success Stories**
Read real stories on the DVA website from people who have received rehabilitation support through DVA’s Rehabilitation Programs.