



INTERIM GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION, *A BETTER WAY TO SUPPORT VETERANS*

On 4 July 2019, the Government tabled in Parliament the final Productivity Commission (PC) report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*. In the 2020–21 Budget, the Government has announced a package of measures to support veterans as part of an interim response to the PC report.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The final report of the PC called for major and fundamental changes to the veteran support system across a wide range of areas, including governance, legislation and entitlements, making 26 findings and 69 recommendations.

The *Interim Government Response to the Report of the Productivity Commission, A Better Way to Support Veterans* focuses on recommendations outlined in the 2020–21 Budget, recommendations that have been implemented or progressed or will be delivered, and those not accepted.

The Government's 2020–21 Budget measures target the immediate priorities of veteran mental health, employment and transition support, to help veterans and their families navigate and recover from the challenges of the current pandemic and focus on their long-term wellbeing.

Importantly, the Government will not implement Recommendations 16.4 and 16.5, which proposed to limit future eligibility for the Gold Card and restrict extensions of the Gold Card to new groups.

The Government will announce its final response to the PC report in the 2021–22 Budget. The Government will also respond to the *Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study* and the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) *Inquiry into transition from the Australian Defence Force (ADF)* reports at that time.

The interim Government response is available on the DVA website.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Veterans, their families, the Australian community and organisations that assist veterans who seek their support.

DATE OF EFFECT

Some recommendations are already implemented, some will be implemented in 2020–21 and others are underway.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

See details on the individual Budget 2020–21 measures.