



Payment measure (\$'000)	Lead agency	2021 -22	2022 -23	2023 -24	2024 -25	2025 -26
1.1 Veterans' Income Support and Allowances						
Boosting Participation and Building Australia's Workforce [^]	DSS	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of Living Payment [^]	DSS	53,645	-	-	-	-
Government Spending Audit — Providing Certainty on Unlegislated Measures Announced by the Previous Government	Cross Portfolio	-	81	163	-	-
Incentivising Pensioners to Downsize	DSS	-	250	485	470	456
Jobs and Skills Summit - incentivise pensioners into the workforce	DSS	-	2,470	-	-	-
Lifting the Income Threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	DSS	-	-	-	-	-
Supporting Retirees - extension of the temporary reduction in superannuation minimum drawdown rates [^]	Treasury	-	1,091	-	-	-
1.2 Veterans' Disability Support						
Increasing the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payment for Veterans	DVA	-	13,359	27,380	27,919	28,302
1.4 Assistance and Other Compensation for Veterans and Dependents						
Veterans' Wellbeing Package	DVA	-	2,516	4,052	4,897	6,390
1.6 Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Acts Payments - Income Support and Compensation						
Increasing the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payment for Veterans	DVA	-	32	74	85	96
Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing [^]	DVA	-	7,085	-	-	-
All Outcome 1 Programs						
DVA - Additional resources for claims processing [^]	DVA	-	11,359	11,422	-	-
DVA - Additional resources for claims processing [#] (reversed in the October 2022-23 Budget)	DVA	-	16,900	18,700	10,500	7,200
Fraud Fusion Taskforce	DSS	-	193	298	301	304
Increasing the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payment for Veterans	DVA	-	622	-	-	-
Investing in Front Line Service Delivery	DVA	-	33,910	65,988	66,748	67,301
Legislative Pathway to Support Veterans and Families	DVA	-	2,601	3,125	-	-
2.1 General Medical Consultations and Services						
COVID-19 Package - aged care	Health	-	120	-	-	-
COVID-19 Package - Medicare and medicines	Health	-	1,313	-	-	-
COVID-19 Package - vaccines and treatments	Health	-	2,969	-	-	-
COVID-19 Response Package - ageing and aged care [^]	Health	-	367	-	-	-
COVID-19 Response Package - guaranteeing Medicare and access to medicines [^]	Health	559	6,664	-	-	-
COVID-19 Response Package - vaccines and treatments [^]	Health	nfp*	nfp*	-	-	-
COVID-19 Response Package – treatments [#]	Health	6,323	33,111	-	-	-
Guaranteeing Medicare - improved patient access to magnetic resonance imaging [^]	Health	-	100	188	192	199
Guaranteeing Medicare - Medical Benefits Schedule new and amended listings [^]	Health	(15)	111	192	224	238
Medicare Benefits Schedule - new and amended listings	Health	-	(148)	31	43	41
More Access to Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Health	-	49	81	84	88



Prioritising Mental Health [^]	Health	-	-	111	124	133
Restoring Regional Mental Telehealth Services - restoring loading to regional psychiatry telehealth services	Health	-	113	182	199	215
Support for New and Expecting Parents	Health	-	(42)	134	190	194
Veterans' Health Care [^]	DVA	-	9,179	21,707	12,314	-
Women's Health Package [^]	Health	-	107	171	179	186
2.1 General Medical Consultations and Services & 2.3 Veterans' Pharmaceuticals Benefits						
Improving Access to Medicines - Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme new and amended listings [^]	Health	2,936	8,665	6,387	3,289	3,591
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - new and amended listings [#]	Health	17	104	143	334	364
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - new and amended listings	Health	-	4,377	6,828	9,080	9,525
2.3 Veterans' Pharmaceutical Benefits						
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - lowering the Safety Net threshold [^]	Health	-	3,402	3,505	3,610	3,718
2.4 Veterans' Community Care and Support						
Support for Veterans	DVA	-	639	2,684	-	-
Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing [^] (Wellbeing Centre Network Expansion reframed in the 2022-23 October Budget)	DVA	-	52,898	2,841	3,250	-
Fixing the Aged Care Crisis	Health	-	-	4,135	24,805	32,529
Responsible Investment to Grow Our Regions	Infrastructure	-	1,825	495	-	-
Veterans' Health Care [^]	DVA	-	18,147	17,715	17,440	17,234
Veterans' Wellbeing Package	DVA	-	(36,742)	12,184	12,166	11,690
2.5 Veterans' Counselling and Other Health Services						
Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing [^]	DVA	-	3,507	4,202	3,479	3,877
2.6 Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Acts - Health and Other Care Services						
Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing [^]	DVA	-	11,129	10,536	11,483	11,404
All Outcome 2 Programs						
Ageing and Aged Care [^]	Health	-	851	-	-	-
Fraud Fusion Taskforce	DSS	-	193	298	301	304
Legislative Pathway to Support Veterans and Families	DVA	-	1,734	2,083	-	-
Support for Veterans and their Wellbeing [^]	DVA	-	197	198	302	304
3.1 War Graves						
Marking World War One Graves	DVA	-	233	282	287	292
3.2 Commemorative Activities						
Commemorations and Activities to Honour our Veterans [^]	DVA	-	925	3,244	3,250	3,256
Responsible Investment to Grow Our Regions	Infrastructure	-	104	103	102	100
Support for Veterans	DVA	-	95	-	-	-
All programs						
An Ambitious and Enduring APS Reform Plan	PM&C	-	(149)	(317)	(357)	-
Expanding the Demand Driven Funding Model	DVA	-	15,632	3,415	3,157	2,102
Modernisation to Reduce Wait Times to Access Support and Services	DVA	-	46,225	5,211	(10,500)	(7,200)
Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide — extension	AGD	-	-	15,487	-	-



Budget at a glance



All figures in \$'000

Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses	Cross Portfolio	-	(8,316)	-	-	-
Total DVA funding		63,465	272,157	256,143	209,947	204,433

* nfp = not for publication

^ March 2022-23 Budget measures

2022 PEFO measures



Budget pack index

Budget at a Glance

Minister's media release

Budget October 2022-23 information sheets

Legislative Pathway to Support Veterans and Families

Investing in Front Line Service Delivery

Modernisation to Reduce Wait Times to Access Support and Services

Expanding the Demand Driven Funding Model

Veterans' and Families' Hubs

Veteran Employment Program

Increasing the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payment for Veterans

Marking World War One Graves

Scott Palmer Services Centre

Additional funding for Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

Greenslopes Legacy Family Hub

Grant funding for Soccer Ashes Research

Budget March 2022-23 information sheets

Legacy 100th Anniversary

DVA – Additional Resources for Claims Processing

Enhanced Family Support Package

Flexibility for the Family Support Package

Expansion of Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program

Maintaining Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying

Supporting Invictus Australia

Provisional Access to Medical Treatment

Increase base rate fees for domestic assistance and personal care services



THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

THE HON MATT KEOGH MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

VETERANS PRIORITISED IN FEDERAL BUDGET

The Australian Government is investing in a better future for Defence personnel, veterans and families, responding to important recommendations put forward by the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and delivering on commitments from the Federal Election.

Our veterans have protected us and in return we must look after them. Key investments made in this Budget seek to improve the claims process for veterans, simplify legislation and ultimately better support Defence personnel, veterans and families as they not only need, but deserve.

In implementing the Government's Response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's interim report, the Australian Government will;

- invest \$233.9 million to engage 500 new frontline staff at DVA to eliminate the compensation claims backlog, delivering on a key election commitment made by the Government;
- invest \$9.5 million into developing a pathway for simplification and harmonisation of veterans legislation;
- invest \$87 million to modernise IT systems in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), improving claims processing;
- commit \$24.3 million to provide increased support to veterans who are having their claims processed and to improve modelling capabilities needed to forecast and manage future demand for DVA services; and
- commit \$15.5 million to support DVA's continued and timely engagement with the Royal Commission.

The Budget delivers on our election commitment to provide long-term benefits for Defence personnel, veterans and families, with significant investments including;

- \$46.7 million for 10 new Veterans' and Families' Hubs across the country, more than doubling the size of the existing network, providing critical services to veterans and families in areas with significant Defence and veteran communities.
- \$24 million to deliver the Veteran Employment Program, which will not only support veterans as they transition to civilian life, but also champion veteran employment by raising awareness of the skills and experience veterans have to offer the civilian workforce.
- \$4.7 million for the development of the Operation Navigator smartphone application to better support Australian Defence Force personnel as they transition to the civilian workforce.
- \$97.9 million for a \$1,000 increase to annual Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) payments, providing additional financial support to around 27,000 of our most vulnerable veterans.
- \$46.2 million to boost Defence personnel and veterans' home ownership.

The Australian Government recognises the important role ex-service and community organisations play in supporting Defence personnel, veterans and families and the Budget commits \$8.1 million to community focused programs that not only support, but pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of our veterans. These commitments include marking war graves, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Sydney and combating veteran homelessness in Darwin.

The Government is committed to providing practical services and supports to Defence personnel, veterans and families to ensure a better future for the veteran community.

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022

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Legislative Pathway to Support Veterans and Families

This initiative invests \$9.5 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24 to create a pathway for legislation improvement to address longstanding complexities in the veteran support system. This forms part of the Australian Government's response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide's Interim Report delivered on 11 August 2022.

The funding will also assist in establishing a governance and assurance framework to manage the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission's Interim Report accepted by the Government

Why is this important?

The Royal Commission found legislative reform of the veteran support system to be an urgent and critical need.

This initiative responds to Recommendation 1 of the Royal Commission's Interim Report. A pathway for reducing complexity in the current veterans' compensation and rehabilitation framework will be developed for consideration by the Government in late 2022, taking into account the views of the veteran community and previous proposals, such as the Productivity Commission's report *A Better Way to Support Veterans*. It will also consider potential improvements to the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

The pathway for legislation improvement will address longstanding complexities in the veteran support system.

Who will benefit?

Legislation improvement will simplify access to compensation and support by veterans, Defence members and their families.

Date of effect?

This initiative is already underway.

How much will this cost?

\$9.5 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24.



Investing in Front Line Service Delivery

This initiative invests \$233.9 million over four years for 500 additional frontline DVA staff to help eliminate the compensation claims backlog and support the wellbeing of veterans and families.

Why is this important?

The number of compensation claims lodged with DVA has more than doubled in recent years, increasing from 53,568 claims in 2017-18 to 131,936 in 2020-21 – an increase of 146 per cent. This has resulted in a backlog of claims and long wait times for veterans and families.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide identified the claims backlog as a critical issue to address in its Interim Report, handed down on 11 August 2022.

500 additional frontline staff will help to eliminate the backlog of claims and reduce wait times for veterans and families, improving health outcomes and wellbeing in the veteran community. These staff will be employed as Australian Public Service positions.

Who will benefit?

All veterans and families who lodge claims with DVA will benefit from the funding for additional staff to increase the number of claims processed. Recruitment of frontline staff also boosts front line services through the Veterans Access Network shopfronts and on Australian Defence Force bases, and rehabilitation support.

Date of effect?

Immediate.

How much will this cost?

\$233.9 million over the forward estimates.



Modernisation to Reduce Wait Times to Access Support and Services

- This initiative provides \$87.0 million over two years to improve the administration of the claims processing system and veterans' services. This measure will make it simpler and easier for veterans and families to lodge claims and access support and services through enhancements to ICT systems, including MyService and the development of business cases to modernise at-risk legacy ICT systems.
- The initiative supports the response to Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Royal Commission, helping veterans and families navigate the claims process through:
 - Supporting more complete claim form lodgement and providing greater transparency on the status of claims and services through MyService
 - Streamlining complex medical forms
- It will also position DVA for ongoing modernisation of the claims administration system, enabling efficiency and agility to rapidly implement legislative change called for by the Royal Commission.

Why is this important?

To successfully address the interim recommendations of the Royal Commission, it is essential that DVA both sustains the transformation and improvements delivered under Veteran Centric Reform and position its ICT ecosystem for ongoing modernisation. This will ensure DVA's technology and digital channel delivery functions can support an improved claims administration system, enabling efficient claims processing and the elimination of the claims backlog. Modernisation of DVA's ICT ecosystem will also deliver the system agility necessary to support legislative change called for by the Royal Commission.

Veteran Centric Reform significantly improved access to DVA, however inefficient and fragmented ICT systems and complex forms have challenged DVA's compensation claims process, which has contributed to a backlog of claims and long wait times for veterans and families. Legacy ICT systems underpin the majority of DVA's core business processes, including payments and services. Many of these systems are at end of life and becoming increasingly costly to maintain. The lack of agility in legacy systems also constrains automation of manual processes and the ability to meet evolving veteran and family's needs.

Who will benefit?

All current and future veterans and families, particularly those who lodge a claim with DVA, will benefit from this initiative.

Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$87.0 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24.



Expanding the Demand Driven Funding Model

This initiative will improve DVA's modelling capabilities to better forecast future demand for services and to support its operations. It will also provide additional resources to meet immediate requirements across critical services to veterans and families which have experienced increased demand associated with high claim numbers.

Why is this important?

Demand for DVA's services is impacted by a wide range of factors such as the size of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the timing and nature of deployments, shifting demographic profiles, the nature of service and injury, and various policy and operational settings.

Recent years have seen substantial growth in the demand for DVA services reflecting the increased tempo of the ADF as well as a range of transformation initiatives designed to make DVA benefits and services more accessible for veterans and families.

It is critical that DVA improve capabilities to accurately estimate demand for its services and the anticipated resources required to keep up.

This initiative supports the Government's response to the Interim Report of the Royal Commission in Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Who will benefit?

All current DVA clients, as well as veterans and service ADF members who may require DVA support in the future.

Date of effect?

Immediate.

How much will this cost?

The initiative will cost \$24.3 million over the forward estimates which is broken down into two elements:

- \$11.1 million to enhance the demand driven funding model (DDFM) to cover a broader range of support services which are impacted by the number of claims; establish a new demand forecasting model; and improve data sharing between DVA and the Department of Defence.
- \$13.2 million for an additional 108 staff to support critical services experiencing high demand, including the Veteran Access Network, Accounts Processing, Veteran Support Officers, Complex Case Managers and Information Access.



Veterans' Wellbeing Package - Veterans' and Families' Hubs

This initiative invests \$46.7 million over the forward estimates to expand the Veterans' and Families' Hubs network to support more veterans and families across Australia. This investment will see 10 more hubs established. This includes eight new hubs and the continuation of development of hubs in Southeast Queensland and Tasmania.

The new hubs will be established in Southwest Perth, Northern Adelaide, Ipswich, Queanbeyan, the Hawkesbury and Hunter regions, the Tweed/North Coast region and the Surf Coast/Geelong region.

The funding will also support coordination, assurance, and evaluation activities which will be administered by DVA.

This investment replaces the expansion to the Hubs network announced in the March 2022 Budget.

Grants made under the Veterans' and Families' Hubs Program are one-off grants which provide capital funding to an organisation for up to \$5 million (GST Exclusive) to support the establishment of the hub through purchase, long-term lease, remodelling and/or refurbishment of a suitable premises. Funding can also be used for operational expenses related to the set-up of the hubs or services. This funding is not to be used for the direct delivery of these services, but for the development of the hub from which the services can be coordinated.

Why is this important?

A Veterans' and Families' Hub provides a space for veteran service and advocacy organisations to co-exist and deliver integrated support to veterans and their families. The hubs allow veteran service and advocacy organisations to operate with ex-service, veteran focused, community and other organisations as well as services provided by state and territory governments.

The hubs deliver wellbeing focused support and offer a one stop shop for local veteran services, including advocacy, employment and housing advice, social connection and physical and mental health services. The services at hubs are available to all current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, including reservists, and their families. The Veterans' and Families' Hubs have a key role in helping ADF members and families as they transition from military to civilian life.

The funding for more hubs will provide veterans and families better access to coordinated and holistic support which can be tailored to their needs in an increased number of locations.

Who will benefit?

Former, current and future ADF members including reservists and families. Veteran and family service providers will be better able to orientate their information and products through the Hubs.



Date of effect?

From November 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$46.7 million over the forward estimates.



Veterans' Wellbeing Package - Veteran Employment Program

This measure will provide greater support to Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel as they transition to civilian employment. The Veteran Employment Program will raise awareness and champion veteran employment by ensuring veterans' skills and experience are understood and valued by the wider community. This, in turn, will support the ongoing contribution of veterans to the nation through the civilian workforce. This will be achieved through:

- understanding why some veterans have difficulty finding employment when they transition from service
- raising community awareness of the benefits of employing veterans and family members
- providing veterans with new or enhanced career pathways through expanded recognition of prior learning (RPL), and
- helping employers to attract, retain and support veterans – particularly those most in need of employment support.

The \$24 million package includes RPL support provided through the Department of Defence and grant funding to assist the tertiary sector to develop or enhance veteran RPL frameworks and support within institutions, and to help businesses to adopt targeted veteran and partner recruitment and retention mechanisms.

Why is this important?

Veterans transitioning from the ADF may face a range of challenges that impact on their wellbeing, including securing suitable employment. Gaining civilian employment supports financial security, which improves quality of life, including mental health outcomes, and facilitates broader social inclusion.

While most veterans transition successfully into civilian employment, challenges can be experienced when moving from ADF service to the civilian workforce. In addition, the risk of unemployment is greater for certain groups of veterans.

There is a need to address misconceptions around veteran employment, provide employer education and practical support to address barriers to veteran and family member employment, and support veterans to recognise and communicate the value of their defence skills, attributes and experience in the civilian workplace or for further education.

- Targeted communication for industries experiencing skills shortages and awareness raising for the broader community will underpin and complement the efforts of a range of veteran employment programs to increase veteran employment opportunities
- The provision of enhanced recognition of prior learning support, including micro-credentialling of vocational skills, will provide scope for new or enhanced career pathways for veterans
- Barriers to employing veterans and family members will be reduced through opportunities for employer education, resources and advice in relation to recruitment and retention processes.



Who will benefit?

Any ex-serving ADF member, and for some parts of the program, their partners.

Employers will also benefit through the recruitment and retention of veteran employees.

Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$24 million over the forward estimates (\$20.5 million for DVA and \$3.5 million for Defence).



Increasing the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Payment for Veterans

This initiative invests \$97.9 million over the forward estimates to provide an increase to the fortnightly Special Rate payments under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) from 1 January 2023. This implements the Government's election commitment.

Why is this important?

Eligible veterans will receive an increase to their fortnightly payment of \$38.46 per fortnight. From 1 January 2023 the Special Rate will be \$1,617.16 (including the Energy Supplement) per fortnight. This will:

- Ensure the Australian Government continues to support TPI veterans and families with appropriate and fair compensation
- Help TPI veterans with cost of living pressures
- Provide additional financial support to TPI veterans and their families in addition to the regular indexation increases each March and September.

The Government recognises the sacrifices made by serving and ex-serving ADF members and is committed to ensuring that veterans who are severely impacted by their experience in the ADF are supported with appropriate compensation.

Who will benefit?

Around 27,000 veterans receiving either the TPI Payment, Temporarily Totally Incapacitated (TTI) Payment and Blind rate of Disability Compensation Payment under the VEA or the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) under the MRCA.

Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$97.9 million over the forward estimates.



Marking World War One Graves

This initiative provides \$1.5 million over the forward estimates to establish an ongoing grant program to support community recognition of First World War veterans interred in private graves who are not eligible for the Australian Government's program of official commemoration.

Why is this important?

This grant program recognises the unique impacts of service on veterans unable to access appropriate and timely health and welfare support in the decades following the cessation of the First World War. It will ensure individuals and communities throughout Australia can access financial assistance in marking the private graves of veterans of the First World War who died post war and are at rest in Australian civil cemeteries.

More than 331,800 Australians deployed during the First World War with 271,800 service men and women returning to Australia at the cessation of hostilities. More than 30,000 of these veterans have had their deaths accepted as related to their war service and have been commemorated as post-war dead in the century since the end of the war. Of the remaining 240,000 veterans of this war, there are likely to be a considerable cohort of veterans whose post war lives were affected not only by their service, but the prevailing economic and social conditions in Australia in the decades following the First World War.

Throughout Australia there are committed individuals and groups working to identify the unmarked graves of First World War veterans and who are marking the grave to ensure the veteran's service and sacrifices are remembered.

Who will benefit?

First World War veterans and families.

Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$1.5 million over the forward estimates.



Support for Veterans – Scott Palmer Services Centre

This initiative provides \$3.6 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24 to deliver on the Australian Government's commitment to provide funding to the Council of Australian Veterans to support the planning, design and construction of the Scott Palmer Services Centre in Darwin, Northern Territory. The Centre will include a six-unit temporary accommodation facility with an office space for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

Why is this important?

The Scott Palmer Services Centre will provide transitional housing for homeless veterans. The Council of Australian Veterans will operate the facility, providing veterans with support to find permanent housing solutions and link to services to gain civilian employment opportunities.

Homelessness is a significant issue in the Northern Territory, with the rate of homelessness 12 times the national average. Research shows that former Australian Defence Force members are overrepresented in Australia's homeless populations, with veterans more likely to engage with veteran-operated services than general mainstream services. The Council of Australian Veterans will provide military-aware support that reduces the barriers for veterans accessing support.

The Centre will facilitate connections with DVA and Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling, linking veterans to programs that address the factors that contribute to veterans experiencing homelessness. This includes addressing mental and physical health issues, family and relationship breakdowns, interactions with the criminal justice system, and civilian employment.

The Scott Palmer Services Centre will complement the Australian Government's investment in a network of Veterans' and Families' Hubs to assist veterans to connect with the local community and assist with the transition from the military to civilian life.

Who will benefit?

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Darwin region.

Date of effect?

1 January 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$3.6 million over two years from 2022-23 to 2023-24.



Funding for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

This initiative provides an additional \$409,000 in grant funding over the forward estimates to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (KTMW) in Sydney to enable the continued operation of this important Second World War commemorative site. This measure will meet the Government's commitment to KTMW with \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next 3 years thereafter to support their operations, more than doubling the funding for KTMW in the March Budget.

The funding will be provided through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' grant program, Local Community, Sport and Infrastructure Projects.

Why is this important?

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is a site of commemoration of those Australian service personnel who fought in the Second World War, with a specific focus on those who fought along the Kokoda Track. 2022 marks the 80th anniversary of the start of the Kokoda campaign, a touchstone for the Australian understanding of our nation's experiences in the Second World War. As at the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in August 2021, there were some 12,000 Australian Second World War veterans still living.

The Walkway is of great significance to local Second World War veterans and its managing Board is unable to fully resource its operations via traditional fundraising opportunities, which have been limited by COVID-19 impacts over 2020 and 2021. Without funding support, the Walkway may be unable to continue to run its services and events for the community at the same level, or be maintained to the current standard.

This measure will meet the Government's commitment to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway with \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next three years thereafter to support their operations, more than doubling the funding for KTMW in the Budget March 2022-23. This is one way the Government demonstrates its acknowledgement of Second World War service personnel.

Who will benefit?

Veterans of the Second World War and their families and descendants will benefit from the continued acknowledgment of their service. School students and community members in the Sydney region will have access to the Walkway's reflection spaces and educational opportunities.

Date of effect?

1 July 2023.



How much will this cost?

\$409,000 over four years in direct grant funding to the Walkway. Total commitment to KTMW is \$186,000 in 2022-23 and up to \$186,000 per year for the next three years thereafter.



Greenslopes Legacy Family Hub

Grant funding of \$1.5 million will be provided as a contribution towards construction of a new headquarters for Legacy Brisbane on the old Red Cross site at Greenslopes, Brisbane. The funding will be provided through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' grant program, Local Community, Sport and Infrastructure Projects. This building is to include a family hub for delivery of support services to families of deceased or injured veterans, to be known as Legacy House.

Why is this important?

Legacy Brisbane provides important social, financial and developmental support for the families of veterans who lost their lives or health in the service of our nation.

With the sale of its Brisbane headquarters, Legacy Queensland needs to find a new home. This Government grant, together with proceeds from the sale of the current headquarters and various fundraising activities, will enable Legacy Queensland to build a new headquarters on the Greenslopes site.

This site was formerly used by the Red Cross to support veterans' families after the Second World War. It is being acquired by the Brisbane City Council from DVA with part of the site to be transferred to Legacy Queensland.

Before construction can commence remediation works need to be completed, including the removal of contaminated soil and asbestos. Construction is also subject to a remediation determination by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Proximity to Greenslopes Hospital will mean families supporting an incapacitated veteran also have access to financial, social and mental health services in a holistic environment.

The families of veterans, and the broader veteran community will benefit from the co-location of these support services.

Who will benefit?

Legacy Brisbane supports almost 6,000 Queenslanders who are related to deceased or injured veterans. Broader support is also to be provided to the veteran community through partner organisations.

Date of effect?

The grant process will commence from 1 January 2023.



How much will this cost?

\$2.3 million over two years from 2022–23 to 2023–24, of which \$1.5 million will be grant funding to Legacy Brisbane.



Support for Veterans - Grant Funding for Soccer Ashes Research

This initiative provides \$95,000 in a one-off grant to continue research into the Soccer Ashes, missing since 1954.

Why is this important?

The Soccer Ashes was the trophy awarded for historical international soccer matches played between Australia and New Zealand between the First and Second World Wars. The trophy itself was a silver razor tin containing cigar ash that was carried by Private W.A. Fisher during the Gallipoli campaign. Private Fisher subsequently became the Secretary of Queensland Soccer Association, where to honour the ANZAC memory, the razor tin was chosen as a symbolic trophy inspired by the cricket Ashes trophy. The early soccer matches between Australia and New Zealand helped forge the sporting rivalry between the two nations whilst acknowledging the bond of our ANZAC heritage.

Missing since the 1954 match, completing the research into the Soccer Ashes will raise awareness of the links between Military and Sporting history and will acknowledge and commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian service personnel.

Who will benefit?

The families and descendants of Veterans of the First World War will continue to benefit from the recognition and commemoration of the service of their relatives. Those who competed for the Soccer Ashes (many of whom were service personnel) will be acknowledged, and fans of soccer and sports more broadly will be reminded of Australia's sporting and military tradition.

Date of effect?

1 November 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$95,000 provided through a one-off grant.



Legacy 100th Anniversary

Legacy Australia Inc (Legacy) is marking its 100th anniversary in 2023 and the Australian Government is contributing to its program of commemorative activities to acknowledge this milestone by providing a one-off grant of \$0.4 million.

Why is this important?

Legacy is a volunteer-based organisation which supports the families of Australian service personnel who have died or lost their health as a result of their service. Legacy provides emotional, social and financial support to veterans' families. Legacy was formed after the First World War when returning service personnel volunteered to support the families of their fallen comrades; these volunteers became 'Legatees', and today over 3,600 Legatees support service families. Over 44 Legacy clubs operate in local communities around Australia, and one in the United Kingdom, supporting over 43,000 partners and children of veterans who have died or been injured as a result of their service. Legacy's remit has expanded, to support families of those service personnel who are still alive but have had their health or mental health compromised by their service.

The Legacy emblem is the 'torch of remembrance' as depicted in the ode by RW Lilliard which states:

*Fear not that you have died for naught
The torch you threw to us we have caught.
And now our hands will hold it high
Its glorious light shall never die.*

2023 marks Legacy's 100th anniversary and this initiative provides funding to contribute to Legacy's program of commemorative activities to mark this significant milestone, in particular a torch relay from Pozieres in France, to London, and onto Australia. The Legacy torch will visit different communities around the Australia, stopping at each Legacy Club, finishing in Melbourne. This public event aims to raise community awareness of the experience of veterans and their families, the impacts of service, and the work of Legacy.

Who will benefit?

All veterans and their families may benefit from the increased public awareness of the work of Legacy.

Date of effect?

The grant funding will be paid in 2022-23.

How much will this cost?

\$0.4 million in 2022-23.





Additional Funding for Claims Processing

Why is this important?

The number of claims received by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has more than doubled over the last three financial years, from 60,663 claims received in 2017-18 to 143,155 in 2020-21 - a 136 per cent increase.

As with any business, this significant increase in workload requires additional resourcing to manage.

The additional funding announced in the 2022-23 Budget will fund the engagement of staff to reduce the backlog of unprocessed claims for two years.

Who will benefit?

Veterans and their families will benefit from the engagement of additional staff to process claims and enable claims to be processed in a timely manner.

Date of effect?

1 July 2022

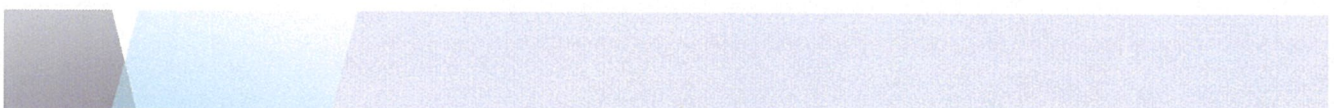
How much will this cost?

The 2022-23 Budget has provided an initial \$22.8 million in 2022-23 for the DVA to engage 90 public service staff for two years to reduce the backlog of unprocessed claims.

This will be followed by a further investment by the Government at a later stage for additional staffing and to fund other measures to improve the veteran claims processing system and reduce waiting times.

The 2022-23 Budget builds on the significant investment announced in the 2021-22 Budget.

The 2021-22 Budget provided DVA with \$137.2 million over two years for DVA staffing, which included an additional \$98.5 million for 447 staff, primarily in service delivery roles.





Enhanced Family Support Package

Families play a crucial role in supporting veterans. This initiative enhances the existing Family Support Package (FSP) by expanding the services and allowing families greater choice in how they use services provided through the program. The enhanced FSP will be available to more veteran families through expanded eligibility. Intensive support will be available for families to adjust to new or challenging life circumstances, complementing other Department of Veterans' Affairs and Government services.

Why is this important?

For most veteran families, military service is a largely positive experience. However, some may need support to manage challenging life circumstances such as mental or physical health episodes or sudden, significant events such as loss of employment. This initiative provides targeted, intensive support to veteran families, and addresses Recommendation 19.2 of the Productivity Commission's report *A Better Way to Support Veterans*.

- It provides support to more families by removing the need for a veteran to be participating in rehabilitation or to have rendered warlike service. Families at risk of or in crisis for veterans under 65 years, who are eligible for incapacity payments, the special or intermediate rate of Disability Pension, or the Veteran Payment, will be eligible. Widowed partners under 65 years old will also be eligible, including those whose veteran partner's suicide was related to service and War Widow(er)s under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA), Wholly Dependent Partners under the *Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and partners under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) whose veteran partner died during service.
- It allows families to choose the help they need by removing prescribed limits on childcare, life skills counselling and household services.
- For a veteran or their family member under 65, the following support can be accessed:
 - up to \$7,500 in the first year and \$5,000 in the second year, for household services including cleaning and gardening, counselling for the family and a range of other practical supports.
 - with an additional \$10,000 per year for children under school age and \$5,000 per year for children of primary school age. This support for children will continue until the child reaches high school age.
- For a widowed partner who is under 65 and whose veteran partner's death was related to service or by suicide related to service, the following support can be accessed:
 - up to \$27,835 each year for two years, for household services including cleaning and gardening, counselling for the family and a range of other practical supports.
 - with an additional \$10,000 per year for children under school age and \$5,000 per year for children of primary school age. This support for children will continue until the child reaches high school age.
- It creates equity by making all services available to all recipients.
- It introduces a range of skills-based supports to equip families to manage independently into the future.
- It improves access for widowed partners by providing support from claim acceptance rather than date of death.



Support under the Family Support Package includes covering any gap fees in childcare, household services such as garden maintenance, cleaning and meal preparation, and capacity building support such as:

- ▶ financial literacy and financial management support;
 - ▶ personal organisation/planning;
 - ▶ personal, parenting, or relationship skills;
 - ▶ resilience development, grief and loss support;
 - ▶ mental health first aid;
 - ▶ cooking lessons;
 - ▶ academic and wellbeing support for children, including psychology and
 - ▶ substance abuse and gambling counselling.
- This builds on the announcement in Budget 2021-22 to expand eligibility and increase choice for families, but ensures families have access to the same financial support under the program.

Who will benefit?

- Families of VEA, MRCA, or DRCA veterans under 65 who are eligible for incapacity payments, the special or intermediate rate of Disability Pension, or the Veteran Payment and who are experiencing vulnerabilities that give rise to a need for support. It is expected approximately 430 families each year will benefit from accessing the package.
- Widowed partners under 65, including VEA War Widow(er)s, MRCA Wholly Dependent Partners, and DRCA partners, whose veteran suffered a death related to service or whose suicide was related to service. It is expected approximately 450 widowed partners each year will benefit from accessing the package.

Date of effect?

Subject to the passage of legislation, the expanded package will be available from 1 July 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$36.8 million over four years.





Flexibility for the Family Support Package

DVA recognises the vulnerable circumstances that may face widowed partners with children, and families of veterans, and this initiative provides more flexible access to funding for childcare costs.

Why is this important?

The Family Support Package (FSP) commenced on 1 May 2018 and is available to:

- veterans under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) with warlike service from 1 July 2004, eligible for and undertaking rehabilitation, and their nominated family members; and
- the widowed partners of MRCA veterans with warlike service from 1 July 2004, where the veteran's death was related to service or suicide related to service.

Widowed partners and families can access a range of services and support through the Family Support Package such as childcare for those under high school age, life skills counselling, and home help (widowed partners only).

Currently, widowed partners can access:

- \$10,000 per financial year for childcare for each child under school age, and \$5,000 per year for each child of primary school age; and
- \$514.12 per week for Home Help services.

This measure addresses feedback from widowed partners on the need for more flexible arrangements for childcare funding under the FSP. This change to the Family Support Package maximises support for widowed partners by providing greater flexibility with how they use the funds available to them through the Family Support Package, by allowing them to use unspent Home Help funds on childcare costs.

This measure is an interim measure to provide some additional flexibility under the existing Family Support Package, pending the passage of legislation to introduce the Enhanced Family Support Package announced at Budget 2021-22 which is due to commence on 1 July 2022, which further improves support and flexibility for widowed partners as well as families.

Who will benefit?

Widowed partners with children and families of veterans who are eligible for the Family Support package will benefit from this additional flexibility.

Date of effect?

1 April 2022.

How much will this cost?

Nil cost.





Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program – ongoing funding

This initiative provides ongoing funding for, and expands, the Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program (the Program).

The Program expansion will provide financial support to eligible veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who have privately sourced a suitably trained and accredited psychiatric assistance dog prior to the Program's implementation, ensuring they are not financially disadvantaged.

Why is this important?

Psychiatric assistance dogs play an important role supporting veterans living with PTSD. They are trained to meet the individual needs of their veteran handler and can detect signs of distress and perform tasks to help alleviate symptoms of stress and anxiety.

Who will benefit?

Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD who meet eligibility requirements for the Program will benefit from the ongoing funding for the Program. Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD who meet the eligibility requirements for the Program and have privately sourced an accredited psychiatric assistance dog will benefit from the expansion to allow for maintenance costs of these dogs to be met.

Date of effect?

The expanded Program will be available from 1 July 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$22.0 million over four years.



Supporting Invictus Australia

This initiative provides grant funding to Invictus Australia over three years to continue to support wounded, injured or ill veterans on their recovery journey through participation in adaptive sports, including the Invictus Games and the Warrior Games.

7-8 Veteran Engagement Specialists will be engaged across Australia to expand Invictus Australia's partnerships with national and local sporting organisations and encourage veterans' participation in sport, aiding their recovery and rehabilitation, and supporting positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Local organisations will be encouraged and supported to provide inclusive environments for veterans and their families.

The funding will allow Invictus Australia to:

- Support the Australian Invictus teams to participate in the 2023 Invictus Games in Dusseldorf and the Warrior Games in 2022 and 2024.
- Continue the delivery of the supporting Adaptive Sports Program for wounded, injured or ill veterans.
- Engage and encourage veterans' involvement in local sporting and community clubs across all states and territories.

Why is this important?

The benefits of sport for physical and mental health are widely acknowledged, particularly during recovery and rehabilitation. Exercise also supports positive mental health outcomes by bringing people together and providing opportunities for peer support, as well as supporting meaning and purpose in life.

The Invictus and Warrior Games also provide an opportunity for our nation to show respect for the courage and determination of Australia's current and former servicemen and women, with a spotlight on ability and achievements post-injury.

The Adaptive Sports Program provides support to veterans with their transition back into civilian life and recognises their rehabilitation needs, with improved physical and mental wellness increasing the quality of life for veterans and their families.

Invictus Australia's Veteran Engagement Specialists will reach out to 'at-risk' veterans, connect veterans with local sporting clubs, community groups and wellbeing services, and encourage sporting organisations to engage and include veteran participants.

Who will benefit?

Wounded, injured or ill veterans across Australia, and the sporting organisations that support them.

Date of effect?

Funding will be available from 2022-23 to 2024-25.



How much will this cost?

\$9.0 million over three years, inclusive of \$8.1 million in grant funding.



Maintaining Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying

This initiative maintains incapacity compensation payments at 100 per cent of pre-injury earnings for veterans undertaking study as part of their DVA-funded return to work rehabilitation program.

Incapacity payments are compensation for economic loss due to the inability, or reduced ability, to work because of an injury or disease that has been accepted as service related under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) or the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (Defence-related Claims) 1988* (DRCA).

This initiative extends a four-year pilot that is supporting eligible veterans in full-time study by one additional year. Under the pilot, the incapacity payment “stepdown” to 75 per cent of pre-injury earnings, which usually takes effect after 45 weeks of compensation, is removed.

Why is this important?

Providing extra financial support is beneficial for veterans undertaking further study with a view to return to work. Vocational rehabilitation equips veterans with the support and resources they need for their transition to the civilian workforce.

Veterans in the pilot program have indicated that they value the financial support of having their fortnightly compensation payments remain at their full pre-injury earnings level, as they transition from military service to a rehabilitation program focused on gaining sustainable employment in the civilian workforce.

Who will benefit?

Veterans receiving incapacity payments under the MRCA or DRCA who are undertaking approved full-time study under a DVA vocational rehabilitation program.

Around 600 veterans are expected to benefit from this extension.

Date of effect?

The pilot will be extended for one year from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$7.1 million over one year.



Supporting Veteran Wellbeing Through Early Access to Medical Treatment

This initiative extends the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment (PAMT) program for a further two years to 30 June 2024. PAMT provides access to DVA funded health treatment for 20 common service-related conditions while the veteran's claim for these conditions is being processed.

Funding for the PAMT program is due to terminate on 30 June 2022. This measure extends eligibility to enter the program for two years until 30 June 2024 with treatment able to continue until 31 December 2024.

Why is this important?

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

This ensures that veterans have timely access to necessary treatment and are not disadvantaged while their claims are being processed. PAMT reduces the financial impact some veterans encounter in seeking health treatment prior to the finalisation of their claim. This can be a barrier to accessing treatment, particularly for transitioning Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have had their health care provided by Defence throughout their military careers.

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

Who will benefit?

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

Date of effect?

1 July 2022.

How much will this cost?

\$33.6 million over two years.





Sustaining a Care and Support Workforce for the Veterans' Community: A Viability Supplement

The Veterans' Home Care program delivers services to support veterans and families to remain living in their own homes. The Australian Government will increase fees for the Veterans' Home Care program for specific services delivered through the program. This measure addresses financial sustainability issues facing Veterans' Home Care service providers.

This initiative provides \$70.6 million over four years to fund an increase to fees for domestic assistance and personal care services under the Veterans' Home Care program. The base hourly rate for domestic assistance and personal care under the Veterans' Home Care program will be increased as follows:

- domestic assistance by 25.38%,
- personal care (standard) by 20.53%, and
- personal care (exceptional) by 16.70%

This measure is part of the broader Care Workforce package led by the Department of Employment, Workforce, Skills and Small and Family Business.

Why is this important?

The Veterans' Home Care program provides veterans and their families assistance at home, to help them stay safe and independent in their homes for longer. The fee increase will ensure veterans continue to receive quality domestic assistance and personal care support through the Veterans' Home Care program. The measure takes a simplified approach to allow for a commencement date of 1 July 2022. The measure terminates on 30 June 2026, noting the Review of Veterans' Care and Support Programs is currently underway and will consider options for future reform.

Who will benefit?

This measure will benefit providers of Veterans' Home Care Services and the 37,000 veterans and war widow/ers participating in the VHC program.

The increase will provide more sustainable access to Veterans' Home Care services, especially for veterans in rural and regional areas.

Date of effect?

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026.

How much will this cost?

\$70.6 million over four years.

