



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Dear Member

I am writing to you regarding the 2017-18 Budget measure *Mental health treatment for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force – expanded access*.

From 1 July 2017, all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who have rendered at least one day of continuous full-time service are eligible to access treatment for *any* mental health condition under Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) arrangements. This was announced as part of the 2017-18 Budget.

Under NLHC, there is no need to prove the condition is related to military service or to make a compensation claim.

NLHC services are provided through the issue of a White Card for specific condition(s). A range of treatments may be available, including treatment from a general practitioner, medical specialist, psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist, psychiatrist, hospital services, specialist PTSD programs or pharmaceuticals.

The White Card also provides access to counselling through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), a national service that provides free and confidential, military-aware mental health counselling and support. VVCS can also support the partner and children of current and former ADF members with any mental health and wellbeing concerns that may have arisen in connection with ADF service. VVCS may be contacted 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

Additionally, White Card holders may also be entitled to the Veterans Supplement, currently \$6.20 per fortnight.

I ask that you convey this information to your members and encourage any current or ex-serving member who feels they may benefit from mental health care, to make an application for NLHC.

Anyone seeking treatment for a mental health condition can make an applications via email at NLHC@dva.gov.au or by calling DVA on 133 254 (Metro Callers) or 1800 555 677 (Regional Callers). If preferred, an online claim form is also available at www.dva.gov.au/nlhc.

Yours sincerely



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Rehabilitation & Support

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