



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



Budget 2024–25

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Budget 2024-25 – Outcomes for the veteran community

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Reform of Veterans Compensation Legislation

\$222 million over four years from 2024-25 to simplify and harmonise veterans' legislation, bringing all veterans and families under a single legislative framework

- A priority for DVA in the coming years
- The veteran community have been engaged in several consultation rounds
- Government planning to introduce the Bill to Parliament in mid-2024

Continuing Veterans' Access to Health and Support

\$59.6 million from 2024-25 to

- support veterans and families requiring care at home – **\$48.4 million over two years**
- extend the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program – **\$10.2 million** over three years
- extend the Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program for one year – **\$1 million**, with costs absorbed by DVA
- extend the Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program for one year – DVA will use **existing funds of \$2.5 million**

Helping Veterans Stay at Home

An additional **\$48.4 million over two years** to support veterans and families requiring care at home

- 45,000 veterans will continue to have access to services under the Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing Program
- The Program empowers veterans and families to stay at home

Extension to the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program

\$10.2 million over three years for the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program

- Provides veterans access to DVA-funded health treatments for 20 common service-related conditions
- More than 45,000 veterans and families have benefitted from the Program
- The extension is expected to see 22,000 more veterans' benefit



Extension to the Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program

\$1 million to extend the Veterans' Chaplaincy Pilot Program for one year

- Program is delivered to veterans and families in Brisbane, Townsville and Perth
- Extension provides time to consider and address findings from the evaluation of the pilot program

Extension to the Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program

DVA will use **existing funds of \$2.5 million** to extend the Military and Veteran Psychiatry Training Program for one year

- 20 trainee psychiatrists will complete training placements
- An evaluation of the Program will be undertaken, to inform Government consideration of a longer-term commitment

Tackling Veteran Homelessness

\$30 million Veterans' Acute Housing Program, to build more housing and provide specialist services for veterans and families who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness

- Part of the Government's broader initiative of housing and homelessness across Australia
- \$24 million to expand the availability of veteran crisis and transitional housing
- \$6 million for organisation to deliver coordinated access to specialist support services



Supporting Veteran Owned Business Grant Program

\$400,000 to extend the Supporting Veteran Owned Business Grant Program for another three years

- Delivered as part of the Government's \$24 million Veteran Employment Program
- The Program provides support to veterans and families to increase the competitiveness of their business, or are keen to start a business



Commonwealth War Graves Commission – additional funding

\$1.16 million over three years to meet the Australian Government's financial obligations to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

- The CWGC ensures perpetual commemoration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars
- This funding will enable the domestic War Graves program to continue to care and maintain, and address the adverse effects on official commemorations and memorials



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Additional resourcing to support service delivery

\$194.4 million over four years from 2024-25 to

- maintain and increase DVA's staffing levels, to meet continuing growth in claims demand and complexity and support downstream client services, all while maintaining the improvements achieved over the last two years - **\$186 million over four years**
- pilot a case management and workflow solution for business improvements – **\$8.4 million over two years**

Improving Frontline Service Delivery

\$186 million over four years from 2024-25 and **\$20.6 million** from 2028–29 onwards to maintain and increase DVA's staffing levels

- An additional 141 staff on an ongoing basis
- The next step to process claims faster and get services and supports to veterans and their families quicker

Digital Resilience Roadmap – Case Management and Workflow capability

\$8.4 million over two years from 2024-25 to pilot a modern clinical case management and workflow solution

- DVA will replace an existing case management solution that is no longer fit for purpose
- Responds to Recommendation 3 of the Royal Commission's Interim Report, to *Improve the administration of the claims system*



Cross-portfolio measures

Department of Health and Aged Care-led measures

- Strengthening Medicare – an effective and clinically appropriate Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), and Boosting Medicare Urgent Care Clinics
- Securing cheaper medicines
- Supporting ongoing access to vaccines

Department of Social Services-led measures

- Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients



Wellbeing approach to the Veteran Hearing Service Offering

** An additional initiative, not a Budget measure*

A veteran-centric wellbeing-focused approach to veteran hearing support and funding decisions

- *A Veteran Hearing Services Framework* to ensure fair and consistent decisions
- Enhanced communication, updated co-designed forms and guidance material
- Approximately 10,000 veterans will benefit per year
- Improvements from 1 July 2024



Questions

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