

Government Response Overview

Response position language and definitions

Response	Position Definition
Agree	Support the recommendation.
Agreed-in-principle	Support the overarching policy intent, with the approach to implementation to be further considered.
Note	Used for recommendations where additional work and consideration is needed to respond. This may be due to a need to consider the outcome of related inquiries or to enable further consultation and engagement to inform a response.
Does not support	Used for recommendations the Australian Government has considered and decided not to implement at this time.

Volume 1: Recommendations and the fundamentals

Recommendation 1: Improve the capacity of future royal commissions to undertake their inquiries **Note**

Volume 2: Serving the nation, and Defence culture and leadership

Recommendation 2: Improve outcomes and access to support for recruits in *ab initio* training **Agree**

Recommendation 3: Build the capability of career managers **Agree**

Recommendation 4: Mitigate the adverse impacts of the posting cycle **Agree**

Recommendation 5: Support all serving members to decompress, rest and reintegrate, especially after high-risk experiences **Agree**

Recommendation 6: Improve the procedural fairness of the military employment classification system **Agree**

Recommendation 7: Increase employment opportunities within the ADF for members who cannot be deployed **Agree**

Recommendation 8: Maximise workforce retention by addressing factors that contribute to voluntary separation **Agree**

Recommendation 9: Improve organisational culture and leadership accountability to increase member wellbeing and safety **Agree**

Recommendation 10: Develop service-specific action plans to implement Defence Respect@Work Framework **Agree-in-principle**

Recommendation 11: Assess ADF leaders based on upward feedback and performance against culture, health and wellbeing targets **Agree**

Recommendation 12: Consider emotional intelligence and performance against wellbeing targets in selecting leaders to promote **Agree**

Recommendation 13: Co-design a new doctrine recognising that operational readiness depends on a healthy workforce **Agree**

Volume 3: Military sexual violence, unacceptable behaviour and military justice

Recommendation 14: Understand the prevalence and effects of military sexual trauma and improve responses to support victims	Agree
Recommendation 15: Clarify definitions and processes related to sexual offences	Agree
Recommendation 16: Evaluate training on managing sexual misconduct and make it mandatory for all leaders	Agree
Recommendation 17: Prioritise the prevention of sexual misconduct in the ADF	Agree
Recommendation 18: Strengthen workplace protections during sexual misconduct investigations	Agree
Recommendation 19: Protect victims of sexual misconduct from disadvantage over the course of their careers	Agree
Recommendation 20: Amend the legislation related to sentencing perpetrators of military sexual offences	Agree
Recommendation 21: Implement a 'presumption' of discharge for ADF members found to have engaged in certain forms of sexual misconduct	Agree
Recommendation 22: Adopt a policy of mandatory discharge for ADF members convicted of sexual and related offences	Agree
Recommendation 23: Record convictions of sexual offences in ADF records and civilian criminal records	Agree
Recommendation 24: Annually publish anonymised data on outcomes of all incidents of sexual misconduct	Agree
Recommendation 25: Conduct a formal inquiry into military sexual violence in the ADF	Agree
Recommendation 26: Foster a strong culture of reporting unacceptable behaviour	Agree
Recommendation 27: Evaluate outcomes to ensure that Defence has addressed the intent behind recommendations	Agree
Recommendation 28: Coordinate governance, assurance and policy functions of the military justice system	Agree
Recommendation 29: Establish a new role to improve training and communication on conducting inquiries	Agree
Recommendation 30: Prioritise the Inspector-General's inquiry into the weaponisation of the administrative system	Agree
Recommendation 31: Consider how mental health may contribute to poor conduct before recommending administrative termination	Agree
Recommendation 32: When requested, conduct a merits review when a member's service is terminated for the reason 'retention-not-in-service-interest'	Agree
Recommendation 33: Seek to understand whether/how involvement in military justice processes contributes to adverse outcomes	Agree
Recommendation 34: Prioritise the review into the regulations governing court martial panels	Agree

Recommendation 35: Determine whether support mechanisms for members involved with military justice processes are effective	Agree
Recommendation 36: Trial a model outside the chain of command for supporting members involved in military justice processes	Agree
Recommendation 37: Develop a charter of minimum standards for all members involved in military justice processes	Agree
Recommendation 38: Improve governance processes related to accountability and continuous improvement	Agree
Recommendation 39: Address risk factors for suicide and suicidality and report on progress as part of enterprise-level risk management	Agree
Recommendation 40: Improve governance mechanisms from the unit level to the enterprise level	Agree
Recommendation 41: Build project-management capability so that reform initiatives are successful	Agree
Recommendation 42: Ensure that future Inspectors-General of the ADF will not have served in the ADF	Note
Recommendation 43: Allow the IGADF to make recruitment decisions for the staffing of their office	Agree
Recommendation 44: Ensure that staff of the office of the IGADF have the necessary skills, expertise and qualifications	Agree
Recommendation 45: Improve transparency and accountability of the IGADF by increasing their reporting requirements	Agree
Recommendation 46: Ensure staff of the IGADF are trained in trauma-informed practice	Agree
Recommendation 47: The IGADF to inquire into all deaths of serving members unless suicide can be excluded as the cause of death	Agree
Recommendation 48: When a member dies by suicide, appoint a legal officer to represent the interests of the deceased and support the next of kin	Agree
Recommendation 49: Minimise disclosure restrictions of IGADF inquiry reports and ensure they are fair and understood by the next of kin	Agree
Recommendation 50: Amend the scope of the IGADF's role to inquire into suicide deaths of former ADF members	Agree
Recommendation 51: The IGADF to regularly review inquiries into suicide deaths to determine common themes	Agree
Recommendation 52: Conduct a merits review when a member's service is involuntarily terminated and they submit a redress of grievance complaint	Agree
Recommendation 53: Give members 21 days to make a complaint after being notified of a decision to terminate their service	Agree
Recommendation 54: Improve the frequency of military justice-related audits conducted by the IGADF	Agree
Recommendation 55: Conduct an audit into Defence workplace health and safety risk management	Agree

Recommendation 56: Improve guidance and understanding of Defence's 'if in doubt, notify' policy	Note
Recommendation 57: Comcare to regularly review ADF determinations of 'service nexus' for suicide attempts and suspected deaths by suicide	Note
Recommendation 58: Give Comcare access to the National Veterans' Data Asset	Note
Recommendation 59: Defence to participate in Comcare's Psychosocial Proactive Inspection Program	Note
Recommendation 60: Improve strategies for harm prevention and early intervention by sharing quality data with Comcare	Agree
Volume 4: Health care for serving and ex-serving members	
Recommendation 61: Establish a brain injury program	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 62: Establish a research translation centre for Defence and veteran health care	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 63: Reduce stigma and remove structural and cultural barriers to help seeking	Agree
Recommendation 64: Establish an enterprise-wide program to monitor and prevent physical and psychological injury	Agree
Recommendation 65: Improve access to, timeliness and quality of mental health screening and use the data effectively	Agree
Recommendation 66: Where possible, support injured members to be rehabilitated at work, within their home unit	Agree
Recommendation 67: Align Defence's clinical governance framework with the national model framework	Agree
Recommendation 68: Strike the right balance between upholding confidentiality and disclosing information when a member is in distress	Agree
Recommendation 69: Improve suicide-prevention training so it is practical, tailored, informed by lived experience and delivered in person	Agree
Recommendation 70: Revise protocols for responding to suicidal crisis to be in line with clinical best practice	Agree
Recommendation 71: Increase DVA fee schedule so it is aligned with that of the National Disability Insurance Scheme	Note
Recommendation 72: Expand and strengthen healthcare services for veterans	Note
Recommendation 73: Improve military cultural competency in health professions working with veterans	Agree
Recommendation 74: Clarify the application of the Privacy Act to veterans to determine whether amendments are necessary	Agree
Recommendation 75: Conduct an independent review of Open Arms and publish the report	Agree
Recommendation 76: Develop a postvention framework with experts and those with lived experience of suicide bereavement	Agree
Recommendation 77: Develop a suite of postvention resources in collaboration with stakeholders	Agree

Recommendation 78: Prevent, minimise and treat moral injury	Agree-in-principle
Volume 5: Transition, DVA and support for ex-serving members	
Recommendation 79: Ensure that respect for and recognition of service are embedded throughout Defence and DVA	Agree
Recommendation 80: DVA to take responsibility for supporting members to transition out of the ADF	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 81: DVA to fund a program to support members' wellbeing during transition to civilian life	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 82: Establish a consistent, locally responsive policy on ex-serving members' access to bases	Agree
Recommendation 83 (a) and (b): Increase opportunities for members to gain civilian qualifications from Defence training and education	Agree
Recommendation 83 (c): 'fill the gap' between Defence and civilian training	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 84: Issue separating members with a reference that states their skills, experience and capabilities	Agree
Recommendation 85: Develop employment pathways for ex-serving members in public sector agencies	Agree
Recommendation 86: Ongoing funding for Veterans' and Families' Hubs	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 87: Establish a new agency to focus on veteran wellbeing	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 88: Develop a national funding agreement on veterans' wellbeing	Note
Recommendation 89: Establish a national peak body for ex-service organisations	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 90 (a): Remove the service differential for permanent impairment compensation	Does not support
Recommendation 90 (b): Expand mental health support to all reserve personnel	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 91: Implement combined benefits processing for all initial liability and permanent impairment claims	Agree
Recommendation 92: Review claims to DVA associated with physical and sexual abuse	Agree
Recommendation 93: Fund the Transition Medical Assessment Pilot Program on an ongoing and national basis	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 94: Improve timeliness and reporting on information-sharing between Defence and DVA for claims processing	Agree
Recommendation 95: Support the expanded application of 'presumptive liability'	Agree
Recommendation 96: Ongoing funding for Provisional Access to Medical Treatment	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 97: Consider giving the Veteran Payment to more veterans with physical health conditions	Agree-in-principle

Recommendation 98: Strengthen DVA performance targets for claims processing timeframes, and improve transparency	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 99: Improve compensation advocacy by funding professional, paid advocates	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 100: Improve the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Department of Veterans' Affairs rehabilitation program	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 101 (a): Enable veterans to choose their rehabilitation provider and to self-manage their budget for approved household assistance on an opt-in basis	Note
Recommendation 101 (b): Reimburse veterans for travel costs to see their preferred healthcare providers	Agree
Volume 6: Families, data and research, and establishing a new entity	
Recommendation 102: Implement and improve upon the Defence Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Family and Domestic Violence	Agree
Recommendation 103: Improve the support, communication and services provided to Defence families	Agree
Recommendation 104: Improve the profile, resourcing and impact of the Defence Family Advocate	Agree
Recommendation 105: Improve coordination with coroners and the National Coronial Information System	Note
Recommendation 106: Establish a suicide database of serving and ex-serving members	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 107: Establish the National Veterans' Data Asset	Note
Recommendation 108: Ensure that all relevant jurisdictions and entities regularly provide data to the National Veterans' Data Asset	Note
Recommendation 109: Defence to report annually on its progress towards data maturity	Agree
Recommendation 110: Review Defence's data assets and address issues with their quality, management, integration and use	Note
Recommendation 111: Achieve a 'gold standard' rating for Defence datasets related to suicidality and suicide	Note
Recommendation 112: Include data on suicide and suicidality in the enterprise-wide Defence data catalogue	Agree
Recommendation 113: Ensure commanding officers access and use quality data for continuous improvement of wellbeing metrics	Note
Recommendation 114: Defence and DVA to prioritise research into veteran health and wellbeing, and publish their workplans	Agree
Recommendation 115: Defence and DVA to publish their research into veteran health and wellbeing	Agree
Recommendation 116: Improve the quality, evaluation, translation and sharing of research findings	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 117: Establish an expert committee on veteran research	Agree

Recommendation 118 (a): Continue the existing Census question on ADF service in 2026 and in future censuses	Agree
Recommendation 118 (b): Direct the ABS to include an additional question on year of separation for ex-serving members in the Census	Note
Recommendation 119: Improve understanding of veteran health by adding questions to Australian Bureau of Statistics surveys	Agree-in-principle
Recommendation 120: Increase funding for research into veteran health and wellbeing	Note
Recommendation 121: Enable research into the health and wellbeing of Defence families	Note
Recommendation 122: Establish a new statutory entity to oversee system reform across the whole Defence ecosystem	Agree