



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

2023–24
Budget

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Priorities



Priorities

- Eliminating the claims backlog
- Reforming veteran legislation
- Modernising information communications technology
- Planning for the future

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Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide



- The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide delivered its Interim Report in August 2022
- \$354.8 million over four years was invested to address recommendations 1-4 in the October 2022-23 Budget
- Significant work is underway to improve access to information and reduce the claims backlog

Legislative Reform



- \$9.5 million invested over two years in October 2022-23 Budget to create a pathway for legislative reform
- Consultation on the pathway opened in February
- Pathway proposes an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act as the sole ongoing Act

Access to information



- Government announced in April that the five Royal Commission recommendations have been implemented
- Changes were made to improve access to information and personnel records held by Defence and DVA
- Information Access Units have been established in both departments and information on how to access these records is available for veterans on our website.

Budget outcomes for the veteran community



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Modernisation and Sustainment of ICT systems



\$254.1 million over four years to replace DVA's financial management system and sustain DVA's existing ICT systems

- A modern and reliable payments system is required to ensure delivery of services and support across the broader veteran support system
- Modernisation will help to improve the experience for veteran and families by reducing the complexity of the claims system

Department of Veterans' Affairs Claims Processing – Additional Funding



Budget outcomes

\$64.1 million in 2023-24 for additional resources to support staff

- Maintaining support staff to meet immediate requirements across critical services experiencing increased demand associated with high claim numbers
- DVA will maintain its skilled workforce to meet demand and mitigate risks of delays in providing services to veterans and families

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Sir John Monash Centre – Additional Funding



\$7.4 million over four years (\$8.3 million over six years) for technology upgrades at the Sir John Monash Centre in France

- Upgrades maintain cutting edge multi-media technology that gives visitors an interactive and immersive experience of what Australian diggers went through on the Western Front

Supporting Veterans – Volunteer Training in Suicide Recognition and Intervention



\$2 million over two years to support the continued delivery of mental health literacy and suicide intervention training

- A national series of workshops and training sessions for the ex-service community
- This training will provide the veteran community with the skills and knowledge needed to:
 - recognise those at risk suicide
 - provide support and intervention
 - enable the connection to mental health support

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Supporting Veteran Families at Risk



Budget outcomes

\$0.5 million over four years to expand eligibility for the Acute Support Package

- The eligibility for the Acute Support Package will be expanding to include grandparents who are full-time carers for children of veterans
- The Acute Support Package is designed to support families who are experiencing new and challenging life circumstances that mean the family unit needs support to get back on track

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Cross-portfolio measures



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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care



Cross-portfolio
measures

There is a strong focus on health in the 2023-24 Budget, including significant investments to strengthen Medicare.

Key measures with positive impacts for veterans and their families:

- Supporting Bulk Billing in General Practice (Veterans' Access Payment)
- *MyMedicare* (voluntary patient registration)
- Lowering the cost of medicines through changes to maximum dispensing quantities
- Urgent Care Clinics
- Funding pay increases for Aged Care Workers

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care



Cross-portfolio
measures

Supporting Bulk Billing in General Practice (Veterans' Access Payment)

- \$33.3 million for DVA over four years.
- This measure triples the current bulk billing incentive – and the corresponding Veterans' Access Payment - for certain GP attendances, from 1 November 2023.
- The increased VAP payment will also for some telehealth services, for veterans registered with *MyMedicare*
- For Veteran Card holders, this means that the amount paid to their GP for some of the most common attendances will increase

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care



Cross-portfolio
measures

MyMedicare (voluntary patient registration)

- Patients will be able to get continuity of care from a team of health care providers through a new voluntary patient registration payment model – *MyMedicare*
- *MyMedicare* will build a stronger relationship between patients and their primary care teams. It is voluntary and open to anyone, **including veterans**, with patients able to register with their preferred practice, GP and care team. It will support access to longer GP telehealth consultations

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care




Cross-portfolio
measures

Urgent Care Clinics

- Urgent Care Clinics will take pressure off hospital emergency departments by making it easier for Australians to see a doctor or nurse when they have an urgent, but not life threatening need for care, at no cost to individuals
- This measure provides additional funding of \$2 million for DVA to support the full rollout of an expanded national network of Urgent Care Clinics
- Veterans and eligible dependents will be able to access urgent care at these clinics using their Veteran Card

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care



Cross-portfolio
measures

Lowering the Cost of Medicines Through Changes to Maximum Dispensing Quantities

- \$1.6 billion in savings for patients over four years (\$46.6 million for DVA cardholders)
- From 1 September 2023, this measure will double the amount of a medicine that many patients with chronic health conditions can buy in a single trip to the pharmacy, with the annual cost for more than 320 PBS listed medicines becoming cheaper for millions of Australians
- Veterans will benefit from fewer visits to their GP and pharmacist to get the medicines they use the most and will save up to \$43.80 a year, per medicine

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Health and Aged Care



Cross-portfolio
measures

Funding Pay Increases for Aged Care Workers

The Government is committing \$11.3 billion to support wage increases for aged care workers. This includes:

Increase to Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing Fees

- \$82.5 million over four years for Veterans' Home Care and Community Nursing programs

Residential Aged Care

- DVA funding of \$288.5 million over four years for residential aged care

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Cross-portfolio measures – Department of Social Services



Cross-portfolio
measures

Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients

- From 20 September 2023, the Government will increase the maximum fortnightly rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 15% for all recipients
- This measure provides an extra \$13.5 million to veterans and families
- The increase will automatically apply to Commonwealth Rent Assistance payments

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Questions?



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