

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000006

Topic: Claims Processing KPIS

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 19)

Senator Claire Chandler asked:

Senator CHANDLER: Page 10 of your submission also states the average processing times under each of the three existing acts currently. It is 58 days for MRCA, 74 days for DRCA and 86 days for VEA. What are your current KPIS for each of those currently? Are they being met?

Mr Kefford: Senator, overall the answer to that is no, they are not being met. They are better than they used to be. The time taken to process is a mathematical average of the age of cases at the point we decide them. So we have cases that are many hundreds of days old. At the point we make that decision, that feeds into the statistics in the particular month.

The guidance that I referred to previously in the veterans recognition act is that we will make determinations under MRCA in 90 days. For claims lodged recently, we are meeting that time line, but overall we are not including them because we continue to work through. We've dealt with the unallocated cases backlog referred to by the royal commission. We've not yet finished processing those decisions or the decisions on hand through to finality. Based on, as I say, that mathematical average, the time taken to process, I can provide on notice where we're at on those against the three acts.

Senator CHANDLER: That would be useful, thank you.

Mr Kefford: The guidance that I referred to under the veterans recognition act, though, is only for MRCA.

Senator CHANDLER: What are the KPIS against those three acts at the moment? In an ideal world, how long would you be taking to process claims under each of those acts?

Mr Brown: Senator, it does depend on the claim type. Permanent impairment initial liability claims under the DRCA are 100 days. Incapacity payments, from memory, are 50 days. That is just from memory. I'm not 100 per cent confident on that one.

Senator CHANDLER: Could you provide on notice to the committee those KPIS?

Mr Brown: Sure, yes.

Answer

Table 1: Claims Processing KPIs

| Measure Number | Claim Type | Measure |
|----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1.2-1 | VEA DCP (incl VEA DCP, AFI & DCP Review) | Claims processed within 100 days |
| 1.3-1 | VEA War Widows Pension | Claims processed within 30 days |
| | | |
| 1.6-1 | DRCA Initial Liability (incl DRCA Death Compensation) | Claims processed within 100 days |
| 1.6-2 | DRCA Permanent Impairment | Claims processed within 100 days |
| 1.6-3 | DRCA Incapacity Payments | Claims processed within 50 days |
| | | |
| 1.6-7 | MRCA Initial Liability (incl MRCA Death Compensation) | Claims processed within 90 days |
| 1.6-8 | MRCA Permanent Impairment | Claims processed within 90 days |
| 1.6-9 | MRCA Incapacity Payments | Claims processed within 50 days |

Each of the major claim types is represented for the three Acts:

- *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)*
- *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)*
- *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA)*.

VEA claim types include:

- Disability Compensation Payment (DCP) which, incorporates an initial liability investigation and pension assessment
- Application for Increase (AFI) of pension
- DCP Review, which is a reassessment of pension rate following an overturned liability decision.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000007

Topic: Contested Terms

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 26)

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

Mr Kefford: As Mr Brown said, one of the issues here is that there is not a consensus on a number of these terms amongst the veteran community itself. Indeed, not only is there not a consensus; some of the options provoke very strong opposition. I'm not specifically talking about 'attendant'; I'm not taking issue with what you are saying in that context, but generally. This is not something that we have glossed over. We have thought about it, but absent a clear path forward, the approach that is in the bill at the moment is that we continue with the language that is there rather than try and change it when there is not a clear view on what it should be.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I doubt there's anybody who is super attached to the phrase 'wholly dependent widow' as opposed to 'widow' and yet they are the two alternative definitions at play.

Mr Brown: And wholly dependent partner. The benefit of the current terminology is that it is gender neutral.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Could you, if possible, provide us on notice those key contested terms? I gave you some of them, but there is probably a couple of others that became apparent in the different submissions. Do it as best you can and provide the indications for relative support or not of those contested terms.

Mr Hill: Yes. We can certainly do that.

Answer

The following is a list of terms raised in submissions:

- Wholly dependent partner
- Dependant
- War widow(er)
- Attendant
- Families/family member(s)
- Veteran family member
- Partner
- Veteran Spouse

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000008

Topic: Peacekeeping operations - table

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 26)

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: You must have a table which shows the different peacekeeping operations—those that have been determined to be qualifying and those that haven't. Would you be able to produce that?

Mr Brown: Yes. We can assist you with that, Senator.

Answer

Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement service that gives rise to Qualifying/Warlike service eligibility.

The following tables detail peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations that give rise to Qualifying/Warlike service eligibility and those that do not.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Qualifying/Warlike Service

| | | |
|---|------|---|
| The area comprising the United Nations Mandated Territory of Namibia and the area of land extending 400 kilometres outwards from the borders of Namibia into the adjoining countries of Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa (including Walvis Bay). | | The period from and including 18 February 1989 to and including 10 April 1990 |
| The area comprising Cambodia and the areas in Laos and Thailand that are not more than 50 kilometres from the border with Cambodia | | The period from and including 20 October 1991 to and including 7 October 1993 |
| The area comprising the former Yugoslavia | | The period from and including 12 January 1992 to and including 24 January 1997 |
| The area comprising Somalia | | The period from and including 20 October 1992 to and including 30 November 1994 |
| Defence Force contribution to the operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zones. | Iraq | 30 June 1991 – 12 January 2003 |
| Defence Force contribution to the operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zones | Iraq | 11 August 1991 – 15 December 1996 |
| Defence Force contribution to the operation to control the Iraq No-Fly-Zones | Iraq | 31 August 1992 – 12 January 2003 |
| Defence Force contribution to the Coalition Force | Iraq | 31 August 1992 – 12 January 2003 |

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| operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zones | | |
| Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda | Rwanda and the areas in Uganda, Zaire (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Burundi and Tanzania that are not more than 50 kilometres from the border with Rwanda. | 25 July 1994 – 16 January 1996 |
| Defence Force contribution to the Coalition Force operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zones | Iraq | 1 January 1997 – 12 January 2003 |
| Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Advance Mission in East Timor | East Timor and the sea area that on 16 September 1999 was the territorial sea of Indonesia adjacent to East Timor. | 16 September 1999 – 23 February 2000 |
| Defence Force contribution to the International Force in East Timor | East Timor and the sea area that on 16 September 1999 was the territorial sea of Indonesia adjacent to East Timor. | 16 September 1999 – 23 February 2000 |
| Defence Force contribution to the International Force in East Timor | East Timor and the sea area that on 16 September 1999 was the territorial sea of Indonesia adjacent to East Timor. | 16 September 1999 – 10 April 2000 |
| Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor | East Timor and the territorial sea of East Timor. | 20 February 2000 – 19 May 2002 |

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| Defence Force contribution to the International Military Advisory and Training Team in Sierra Leone | Sierra Leone | 15 January 2001 – 28 February 2003 |
| Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor. | East Timor and the territorial sea of East Timor | 20 May 2002 – 17 August 2003 |
| Operation Paladin. Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. | Specified location in Southern Lebanon (see instrument for full details) | 12 July 2006 – 14 August 2006 |
| Operation Riverbank. Defence Force support to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq. | Iraq | 21 July 2008 – 14 December 2013 |
| Operation Orenda. Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. | The land area and superjacent airspace of the Republic of Mali. | On and after 1 April 2020 |

Peacekeeping operations that do not give rise to Qualifying/Warlike service eligibility

| | |
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| Security Council Commission of Investigation on the Balkans | 29 January 1947 |
| Committee of Good Offices | 25 August 1947 |
| United Nations Special Commission on the Balkans | 26 November 1947 |
| United Nations Commission on Korea | 1 January 1949 |
| United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan | 1 January 1949 |
| United Nations Commission for Indonesia | 28 January 1949 |
| United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation | 1 June 1956 |
| United Nations Operations in the Congo | 1 August 1960 |
| United Nations Yemen Observation Mission | 1 January 1963 |
| United Nations Force in Cyprus | 14 May 1964 |
| United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission | 20 September 1965 |
| United Nations Disengagement Observer Force | 1 January 1974 |
| United Nations Emergency Force Two | 1 July 1976 |
| United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon | 23 March 1978 |
| Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe | 24 December 1979 |
| Sinai Multinational Force and Observers established by the Protocol between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel dated 3 August 1981 | 18 February 1982 |
| United Nations Iran/Iraq Military Observer Group | 11 August 1988 |
| United Nations Border Relief Operation in Cambodia | 1 February 1989 |
| United Nations Transition Assistance Group Namibia | 18 February 1989 |
| United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (Mission des Nations Unies pour un Referendum au Sahara Occidental) | 27 June 1991 |

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| The Australian Police Contingent of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia | | | |
| 18 May 1992 | | | |
| The Australian Police Contingent of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique | | | |
| 27 March 1994 | | | |
| Australian Defence Support to a Pacific Peacekeeping Force for a Bougainville Peace Conference | | | |
| 21 September 1994 | | | |
| The Australian Police Contingent of the Multi-National Force in Haiti | | | |
| 10 October 1994 | | | |
| Banner | Defence Force contribution to the Cambodia Mine Action Centre and the United Nations Military Liaison Team | Cambodia and the areas of Laos and Thailand that are not more than 50 km from the border with Cambodia | 8 October 1993–4 October 1999 |
| | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Observer Mission in Guatemala | Guatemala | 13 February 1997–12 May 1997 |
| Vista | Defence Force withdrawal of non-essential Australian personnel from Cambodia | Cambodia | 5 July 1997–14 July 1997 |
| | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Survey Team in Congo | Libreville (Gabon), Pointe Noire (Republic of the Congo) and Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) | 25 July 1997–7 August 1997 |
| Bel Isi and Bel Isi II | Defence Force contribution to the Truce Monitoring Group or the Peace Monitoring Group | Bougainville Island, Buka Island and the territorial waters of Papua New Guinea surrounding those islands | 20 November 1997–26 August 2003 |

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| Osier | NATO Stabilisation Force | The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro | 24 January 1997– 12 December 2011 |
| Pollard | Defence Force contribution to the Coalition Force in the Middle East | All sea, airspace and land North and West from 5°00'S, 68°00'E and encompassing the outer boundaries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan and Kenya | 17 February 1998– 1 October 2001 |
| Agricola | | Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 25 February 1999–10 June 1999 |
| Damask | Defence Force contribution to the Multi-national Maritime Interception Force | The area: (a) comprising all sea of the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the northern Arabian Sea bounded by latitude 20°00'N and longitude 61°50'E; and (b) including the ports adjacent to the area mentioned in paragraph (a), and the airfields and military facilities adjacent to those ports | 18 March 1999– 19 October 2001 (The Damask operations are understood to have related in part to sanctions enforcement, and so may be seen as related to peacekeeping.) |
| Allied Force | Defence Force contribution to the NATO operation against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Adriatic Sea and NATO bases in Italy | 15 April 1999–3 June 1999 |
| Bolton | Defence Force contribution to the Coalition Force operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zone | Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Incirlik airbase in Turkey | 13 May 1999–12 January 2003 |

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| Joint Guardian | United Nations Kosovo Force | Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 11 June 1999– 12 December 2011 |
| Faber | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Advance Mission in East Timor | East Timor and the territorial sea of Indonesia adjacent to East Timor | 19 June 1999– 15 September 1999 (Certain operations in East Timor may be classified as warlike and non-warlike at different times.) |
| Spitfire | | East Timor and the territorial sea of Indonesia adjacent to East Timor | 6 September 1999– 19 September 1999 |
| Southern Watch | Defence Force contribution to the Coalition Force operation to patrol the Iraq No-Fly-Zones | Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Incirlik airbase in Turkey | 23 September 1999– 12 January 2003 |
| Plumbob | | Guadalcanal Island and the waters extending 12 nautical miles from the low water mark of Guadalcanal Island | 8 June 2000–24 June 2000 |
| Trek | | Solomon Islands and its territorial sea | On and after 4 November 2000 |
| Pomelo | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea | Ethiopia and Eritrea | 15 January 2001–31 May 2005 |
| Paladin | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization | The total land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace within the internationally recognised boundaries of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt | 21 April 2003–11 July 2006 |

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| Paladin | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization | The total land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace within the internationally recognised boundaries of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, excluding the following area: Southern Lebanon bounded by 33°12'N 35°12'E, 33°10'N 35°20'E, 33°19'N 35°25'E, on the Litani River, then along the Litani River to 33°25'N 35°37'E, 33°22'N 35°49'E, on the Syria-Lebanon border, then south to the junction of the Syria-Lebanon-Israel border, then east along the Lebanon-Israel border to the coast, then north along the coast to 33°12'N 35°12'E | 12 July 2006–14 August 2006 (This item covers that part of the Operation Paladin area which is not declared a warlike Area of Operations for this period.) |
| Paladin | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization | The total land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace within the internationally recognised boundaries of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt | On and after 15 August 2006 |
| Anode | Defence Force contribution to the Australian Government's Strengthened Assistance Framework Program in support of the Solomon Islands Government | The total land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace boundaries of the Solomon Islands | 24 July 2003– 30 September 2013 |
| Citadel | United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor | East Timor and the territorial sea of East Timor | 18 August 2003–26 June 2008 |
| Spire | United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor | East Timor and the territorial sea of East Timor | 20 May 2004–26 June 2008 |
| Azure | United Nations Mission in Sudan | Sudan and its territorial waters and superjacent airspace | 10 April 2005– 31 December 2011 |

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| Astute | Defence Force stabilisation operation in support of the Government of East Timor | East Timor and its territorial waters and superjacent airspace | 12 May 2006–19 April 2013 |
| Quickstep | Defence Force mission in Fiji | Fiji and its land, internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea and superjacent airspace and the exclusive economic zone of Fiji | 31 October 2006–22 December 2006 |
| Quickstep Tonga | Defence Force operation to assist the Government of Tonga with the restoration of law and order in Tonga | The sovereign territory of Tonga, including the land territory, internal waters, territorial sea and superjacent airspace of Tonga and the exclusive economic zone of Tonga and its superjacent airspace | 18 November 2006–30 November 2006 |
| Hedgerow | Defence Force contribution to the hybrid United Nations and African Union mission in Darfur | Sudan | 28 July 2008–23 June 2011 |
| | Defence Force contribution to the NATO no-fly zone and maritime enforcement operation against Libya | The international waters and superjacent airspace of the central southern Mediterranean Sea between 10°00'E and 28°00'E and south of 41°00'N, including portions of Italy, Greece, Turkey, Albania and all of Malta and north of Libya and its territorial waters and superjacent airspace | 31 March 2011–31 October 2011 |
| Aslan | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan | South Sudan and its superjacent airspace | On and after 23 September 2011 |

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| Mazurka | Multi-national Force and Observers—Sinai | Egypt, between the east bank of the Suez Canal and the international boundary between Egypt and Israel established by the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel signed in Washington on 26 March 1979, and an adjoining area extending 5 kilometres into Israel | On and after 28 January 1993 |
| Manitou | Maritime operations, including counter-piracy operations | The area: (a) comprising all sea and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea north of latitude 11°00'S and west of longitude 68°00'E; and (b) including the ports adjacent to the area mentioned in paragraph (a), and the area within a 10 kilometre radius of each port | 1 July 2014–13 May 2015 |
| Manitou | Maritime operations, including counter-piracy operations | The area: (a) comprising all sea and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Indian Ocean north of latitude 15°00'S and west of longitude 68°00'E; and (b) including the ports adjacent to the area mentioned in paragraph (a), and the area within a 10 kilometre radius of each port | 14 May 2015– 13 November 2016 |

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|---------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Manitou | Maritime operations, including counter-piracy operations | The area: (a) comprising all sea and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Suez, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea north of latitude 15°00'S and west of longitude 70°00'E and the Indian Ocean north of latitude 15°00'S and west of longitude 70°00'E; and (b) including the ports adjacent to the area mentioned in paragraph (a), and the area within a 10 kilometre radius of each port | On and after 14 November 2016 |
| Okra | Defence Force contribution to the Iraq crisis | The land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and the waters and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf | 1 July 2014–8 August 2014 |
| Okra | Defence Force contribution to the Iraq crisis | The land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Jordan, Kuwait, Montenegro, Poland, Qatar, Romania and the United Arab Emirates, and the waters and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf | 9 August 2014– 8 September 2015 |

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| Okra | Defence Force contribution to the Iraq and Syria crisis | The following areas: (a) the land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Jordan, Kuwait, Montenegro, Poland, Qatar, Romania and the United Arab Emirates; (b) the waters and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf; (c) the land territory of Turkey east of longitude 35°00'E, including superjacent airspace and territorial waters. | 9 September 2015 – 14 November 2018 |
| Okra | Defence Force contribution to the Iraq and Syria crisis | The following areas: (a) the land area, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates; (b) the waters and superjacent airspace of the Persian Gulf; (c) the land territory of Turkey east of longitude 35°00'E, including superjacent airspace and territorial waters. | On and after 15 November 2018 |
| Litten | Maritime operations in the Mediterranean Sea | Libyan territorial waters | 31 August 2016– 21 October 2016 |
| Litten | Maritime operations in the Mediterranean Sea | Libyan territorial waters | On and after 4 November 2016 |

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| Fortitude | Defence Force contribution to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force | The land, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Israel, Syria, Jordan, Arab Republic of Egypt and Lebanon | On and after 30 April 2019 |
| | Support operations | The land, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of Somalia | 21 December 2020 – 11 February 2021 |
| Lilia | Defence Force contribution to stabilisation of the Solomon Islands | The land, territorial waters and superjacent airspace of the Solomon Islands. | On and after 25 November 2021 |

Service with Police Contingents of Peacekeeping Forces – defined as peacekeeping service under the VEA; not Qualifying/Warlike service

- United Nations Force in Cyprus - 14 May 1964 – June 2017
- The Australian Police Contingent of the United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor (UNMISSET) - 20 May 2002 – 20 May 2005
- The Australian Police Contingent of the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI) - 24 July 2003 – 30 June 2017
- The Australian Police Contingent of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) - 1 January 2006 – 9 July 2011. (Although VEA coverage exists for service by Police members on UNMIS, this does not extend to the subsequent Peacekeeping operation established by the UN for the newly-independent nation of South Sudan, UNMISS).

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000009

Topic: Presumptive Liability

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 27)

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Thank you. Can you provide assurance that all of the existing presumptive liability conditions will roll over?

Mr Brown: Yes.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: If possible, could you provide a list of what they are so we can see that?

Mr Brown: Yes.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Secondly, was consideration given for at least a requirement of transparency so that a statement of reasons is issued when a condition is either included or not included? At the moment, there's just no transparency. It's not clear at all how and why these decisions are made. As this rolls on, it's likely to become a problem. Do you want to take that on notice?

Mr Brown: Yes. It is something we can think about, Senator. Thank you.

Answer

There are currently five categories of claims which essentially achieve a 'presumptive' outcome for veterans, all of which are available for public review. The underlying authority giving effect to each of the categories is a combination of legislation, legislative instrument(s) and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission/Repatriation Commission (Commissions) endorsed policy. Conditions/categories covered under the existing compensation framework include:

- Cancers which are prescribed for Australian Defence Force firefighters under subsection 7(8) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) (**Attachment A**).
- Specified conditions for eligible Australian Defence Force firefighters who participated in firefighting training at Royal Australian Air Force Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 – prescribed under legislative instrument (**Attachment B**).
- Conditions covered by the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) (Specified Diseases and Employment) Instrument 2017* – also prescribed via legislative instrument which sets out a list of conditions which can be taken to relate to certain kinds of employment. An extract from the instrument is at **Attachment C**, and includes the service and conditions covering Australian Defence Force Point Cook firefighters.
- Specified conditions for eligible F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers - also endorsed via Commissions policy (**Attachment D**).
- Specified 'Decision Ready' conditions – which cover existing 'Streamlining' and 'Straight Through Processing' conditions as endorsed via Commissions policy (**Attachment E**).

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Attachment A

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988
(DRCA), ss.7(8) & (9) – Commonwealth firefighters

The cancers covered and the relevant qualifying periods under this provision are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Primary site brain cancer | 5 years |
| 2. Primary site bladder cancer | 15 years |
| 3. Primary site kidney cancer | 15 years |
| 4. Primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma | 15 years |
| 5. Primary leukemia | 5 years |
| 6. Primary site breast cancer | 10 years |
| 7. Primary site testicular cancer | 10 years |
| 8. Multiple myeloma | 15 years |
| 9. Primary site prostate cancer | 15 years |
| 10. Primary site ureter cancer | 15 years |
| 11. Primary site colorectal cancer | 15 years |
| 12. Primary site oesophageal cancer | 15 years |
| 13. Primary site lung cancer | 15 years |
| 14. Primary site skin cancer | 15 years |
| 15. Primary site cervical cancer | 10 years |
| 16. Primary site ovarian cancer | 10 years |
| 17. Primary site penile cancer | 15 years |
| 18. Primary site pancreatic cancer | 10 years |
| 19. Primary site thyroid cancer | 10 years |
| 20. Malignant mesothelioma | 15 years |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Attachment B

ADF Firefighters Scheme

The ADF Firefighters Scheme benefits ADF firefighters who served at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 (inclusive). Eligibility criteria are:

- that a person was an ADF firefighter, trainee, instructor or other ADF employee;
- that they took part in firefighting training at RAAF Base Point Cook Fire Training School; and
- the training occurred between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 (inclusive).

These conditions are listed in the the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims)(Specified Diseases and Employment) Amendment Instrument 2021.

The conditions are:

1. dysplastic naevus
2. eczema/dermatitis
3. multiple sclerosis (MS)
4. Parkinson's disease
5. peripheral neuropathy
6. spinal muscular atrophy
7. erectile dysfunction
8. cauda equina syndrome
9. neurogenic bladder
10. non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy
11. acquired colour vision deficiency
12. depression
13. sleep disorders with neurogenic basis
14. bipolar affective disorder
15. vertigo
16. memory loss
17. anxiety
18. panic disorders
19. impaired cognition
20. agoraphobia with panic disorder
21. malignant neoplasms
22. myeloproliferative disorders

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

23. liver disease
24. pancreatic disease
25. irritable bowel disorder
26. ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease
27. diverticulitis
28. bowel polyps
29. mixed connective tissue disease
30. systemic lupus erythematosus
31. sarcoidosis

These are the same conditions available under the F-111 Deseal/Reseal arrangements detailed above.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Attachment C

Extract from *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) (Specified Diseases and Employment) Instrument 2017*

Schedule 1—Specified diseases relating to specified employment

| Column 1 | Column 2 | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Item | Disease | Employment |
| Infectious diseases | | |
| 1 | Anthrax | Employment involving work with: (a) animals; or (b) animal carcasses; or (c) animal parts. |
| 2 | Brucellosis | Employment involving work with: (a) animals; or (b) animal carcasses; or (c) animal parts; or (d) animal waste. |
| 3 | Hepatitis A | Employment involving work with human waste. |
| 4 | Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C | Employment involving work with human body fluids. |
| 5 | Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) | Employment involving work with: (a) needles in a healthcare services setting; or (b) sharps in a healthcare services setting. |
| 6 | Leptospirosis | Employment involving work with: (a) animals; or (b) animal carcasses; or (c) animal parts; or (d) animal waste. |
| 7 | Orf | Employment involving work with: (a) goats; or (b) goat carcasses; or (c) sheep; or (d) sheep carcasses. |
| 8 | Q-fever | Employment involving work with: (a) animals; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (b) animal carcasses; or (c) animal parts. |
| 9 | Tuberculosis | Employment involving work with: (a) animals: (i) in a farming setting; or (ii) in a veterinarian setting; or (b) animal carcasses: (i) in a farming setting; or (ii) in a veterinarian setting; or (c) human corpses: (i) in a healthcare services setting; or (ii) in a mortuary setting; or (d) persons (individuals) in a healthcare services setting. |
| Malignant diseases | | |
| 10 | Primary malignant disease of the salivary gland | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 11 | Primary malignant disease of the nasopharynx | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) formaldehyde; or (b) wood. |
| 12 | Primary malignant disease of the oesophagus | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 13 | Primary malignant disease of the stomach | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 14 | Primary malignant disease of the colon or rectum | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| 15 | Primary malignant disease of the liver | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with vinyl chloride monomer. |
| 16 | Primary malignant disease of the nasal cavity or para-nasal sinuses | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation; or (c) nickel; or (d) leather; or (e) wood. |
| 17 | Primary malignant disease of the larynx | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) asbestos; or (b) asbestos-containing material; or (c) acid mist (strong inorganic). |
| 18 | Primary malignant disease of the lung caused by asbestos | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) asbestos; or (b) asbestos-containing material. |
| 19 | Primary malignant disease of the bone | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 20 | Primary malignant disease of the mesothelium | Employment for at least one year (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) asbestos; or (b) asbestos-containing material. |
| 21 | Primary malignant disease of the breast | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 22 | Primary malignant disease of the ovary | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) asbestos; or (b) asbestos-containing material. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

| | | |
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| 23 | Primary malignant disease of the kidney | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation; or (c) trichloroethylene. |
| 24 | Primary malignant disease of urothelial tissue lining the urinary tract | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation; or (c) 2-naphthylamine; or (d) benzidine; or (e) cyclophosphamide; or (f) ortho-toluidine; or (g) polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons during aluminium production. |
| 25 | Primary malignant disease of the brain | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 26 | Primary malignant disease of the thyroid | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| 27 | Primary leukaemia (excluding chronic lymphatic leukaemia) | Employment for at least 2 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation; or (c) benzene; or (d) butadiene; or (e) cyclophosphamide; or (f) formaldehyde. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| 28 | Primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma | Employment for at least 2 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) equipment that produces ionising radiation; or (b) substances that emit ionising radiation. |
| Diseases of the nervous system | | |
| 29 | Parkinson's disease | Employment for at least one year (whether consecutive or not) involving work with manganese. |
| 30 | Peripheral neuropathy | Employment for at least one year (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) acrylamide; or (b) arsenic; or (c) carbon disulphide; or (d) lead; or (e) mercury; or (f) n-hexane; or (g) organophosphates; or (h) trichloroethylene. |
| Respiratory diseases | | |
| 31 | Occupational asthma | Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work with an agent or thing specified in column 2 of an item of the table in Schedule 2. |
| 32 | Coal workers' pneumoconiosis | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with coal. |
| 33 | Asbestosis | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) asbestos; or (b) asbestos-containing material. |
| 34 | Silicosis | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) material containing crystalline silica; or (b) silica. |
| 35 | Other pneumoconiosis | Employment for at least 5 years (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) aluminium; or (b) barium; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (c) beryllium; or (d) cobalt; or (e) iron oxide; or (f) tin; or (g) tungsten. |
| 36 | Byssinosis | Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) unprocessed cotton; or (b) unprocessed flax; or (c) unprocessed hemp; or (d) unprocessed sisal. |
| 37 | Extrinsic allergic alveolitis | Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: (a) feathers; or (b) grain; or (c) hay; or (d) straw. |
| Hepatic disease | | |
| 38 | Non-infectious hepatitis | Employment involving work with: (a) acrylonitrile; or (b) alcohols; or (c) amino-derivatives of benzene; or (d) antimony; or (e) aromatic hydrocarbons; or (f) arsenic; or (g) benzene; or (h) benzoquinone; or (i) beryllium; or (j) cadmium; or (k) carbon disulphide; or (l) carbon monoxide; or (m) chromium; or (n) copper; or (o) fluorine; or (p) glycols; or (q) hexane; or (r) hydrogen cyanide; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

- (s) hydrogen sulphide; or
- (t) ketones; or
- (u) lead; or
- (v) manganese; or
- (w) mercury; or
- (x) methylene chloride; or
- (y) mineral acids; or
- (z) nitric acid esters; or
- (za) organochlorine compounds; or
- (zb) organophosphate; or
- (zc) osmium; or
- (zd) oxides of nitrogen; or
- (ze) ozone; or
- (zf) phosgene; or
- (zg) phosphorus; or
- (zh) selenium; or
- (zi) styrene; or
- (zj) thallium; or
- (zk) tin; or
- (zl) toluene; or
- (zm) toxic halogen derivatives of aliphatic;
or
- (zn) toxic nitro-derivatives of benzene; or
- (zo) vanadium; or
- (zp) zinc.

Skin diseases

| | | |
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| 39 | Irritant contact dermatitis | <p>Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work and contact with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) alcohols; or (b) cutting fluids; or (c) cleaners; or (d) degreasers; or (e) disinfectants; or (f) liquids (frequent contact); or (g) liquids (prolonged contact); or (h) petroleum products; or |
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Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

| | | |
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| | | (i) soaps; or (j) solvents. |
| 40 | Allergic contact dermatitis | Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work and contact with: (a) 2,5-diaminotoluene sulfate; or (b) 4-phenylenediamine base; or (c) ammonium persulfate; or (d) cobalt chloride; or (e) cocamide diethanolamide; or (f) coconut diethanolamide; or (g) colophonium/colophony/rosin; or (h) diazolidinyl urea; or (i) epoxy resin; or (j) formaldehyde; or (k) fragrance mix I: (i) amylcinnamaldehyde; or (ii) cinnamic alcohol; or (iii) cinnamic aldehyde; (iv) eugenol; or (v) geraniol; or (vi) hydroxycitronellal; or (vii) isoeugenol; or (viii) oakmoss absolute; or (l) fragrance mix II: (i) citral; or (ii) citronellol; or (iii) coumarin; or (iv) farnesol; or (v) hexyl cinnamic aldehyde; or (vi) hydroxyisohexyl 3-cyclohexene carboxaldehyde; or (m) glyceryl monothioglycolate; or (n) hydroxyethyl methacrylate; or (o) mercaptobenzothiazole; or (p) methyl chloroisothiazolinone; or (q) mixture of methylchloroisothiazolinone and methylisothiazolinone; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (r) nickel sulfate; or |
| | | (s) potassium dichromate; or |
| | | (t) quaternium 15; or |
| | | (u) thiuram mix: |
| | | (i) tetramethylthiuramdisulfide; or |
| | | (ii) tetramethylthiuram monosulfide; or |
| | | (iii) tetraethylthiuram disulfide. |
| 41 | Occupational vitiligo | Employment for at least 4 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: |
| | | (a) hydroquinone; or |
| | | (b) monobenzyl ether of hydroquinone; or |
| | | (c) monobutyl ether of hydroquinone; or |
| | | (d) para-amyphenol; or |
| | | (e) para-tertiary-butylcatechol; or |
| | | (f) para-tertiary-butylphenol. |

Musculoskeletal diseases

| | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 42 | Raynaud's disease | Employment for at least 12 weeks (whether consecutive or not) involving work with: |
| | | (a) powered equipment that produces vibration; or |
| | | (b) powered tools that produce vibration. |

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| 43 | Bursitis at the elbow or knee | Employment for at least 6 months (whether consecutive or not) involving a work activity that: |
| | | (a) for bursitis at the elbow: |
| | | (i) involves prolonged external friction at or about the elbow; or |
| | | (ii) involves prolonged external pressure at or about the elbow; or |
| | | (iii) involves recurrent external friction at or about the elbow; or |
| | | (iv) involves recurrent external pressure at or about the elbow; or |
| | | (b) for bursitis at the knee: |
| | | (i) involves prolonged external friction at or about the knee; or |
| | | (ii) involves prolonged external pressure at or about the knee; or |
| | | (iii) involves recurrent external friction at or about the knee; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

(iv) involves recurrent external friction at or about the knee.

Acute diseases

| | | |
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| 44 | Acute poisoning or toxicity affecting the heart, lungs, liver, kidney, nervous system or blood | The same as for item 38. |
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Schedule 2—Occupational asthma

| | Column 1 | Column 2 |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| Item | Class of agent or thing | Specified agent or thing |
| 1 | Arthropods | (a) acarian; or (b) barn mite; or (c) caddisfly; or (d) cricket; or (e) <i>Ephestia kuehniella</i> (Mediterranean flour moth); or (f) fowl mite; or (g) fruit fly; or (h) grain mite; or (i) flour mite; or (j) lesser mealworm; or (k) locust; or (l) sheep blowfly; or (m) silkworm. |
| 2 | Acids | (a) dodecanedioic acid; or (b) glacial acetic acid; or (c) hydrochloric acid; or (d) peroxyacetic acid; or (e) sulphuric acid; or (f) sulphur dioxide. |
| 3 | Acrylates | (a) acrylic acid; or (b) cyanoacrylates; or (c) methyl methacrylate; or (d) polymethyl methacrylate; or (e) trimethylolpropane triacrylate/2-hydroxypropyl acrylate. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| 4 | Aldehydes | (a) formaldehyde; or (b) gluteraldehyde; or (c) paraformaldehyde; or (d) urea formaldehyde. |
| 5 | Amines | (a) aminoethyl ethanolamine; or (b) diethanolamine; or (c) dimethylethanolamine; or (d) ethanolamines; or (e) ethylenediamine; or (f) monoethanolamine; or (g) surfactant-specific amines; or (h) triethanolamine; or (i) triethylenetetramine; or (j) trimethylhexane-1; or (k) 6-diamine/isophorondiamine mixture. |
| 6 | Ammonias | (a) anhydrous ammonia; or (b) ammonium hydroxide; or (c) ammonia solution 10%; or (d) ammonia solution 29%. |
| 7 | Anhydrides | (a) hexahydrophthalic anhydride; or (b) himic anhydride; or (c) maleic anhydride; or (d) methyl tetrahydrophthalic; or (e) anhydride; or (f) phthalic anhydride; or (g) tetrachlorophthalic anhydride; or (h) trimellitic anhydride. |
| 8 | Bio-aerosols | (a) <i>Alternaria</i> ; or (b) <i>Chrysonilia sitophilia</i> ; or (c) <i>Neurospora</i> ; or (d) <i>Penicillium</i> ; or (e) cutting oils. |
| 9 | Biological enzymes | (a) <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> enzymes; or (b) bromelain; or (c) egg lysozyme; or (d) esperase; or (e) flaviastase; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (f) fungal amylase; or (g) fungal amyloglucosidase; or (h) fungal hemicellulose; or (i) pancreatin; or (j) papain; or (k) pepsin; or (l) trypsin. |
| 10 | Epoxy | (a) epoxy; or (b) epoxy adhesive. |
| 11 | Ethylene oxide | ethylene oxide. |
| 12 | Flours | (a) buckwheat flour; or (b) rye flour; or (c) soya flour; or (d) wheat flour. |
| 13 | Flowers | (a) baby's breath; or (b) freesia; or (c) <i>Limonium tataricum</i> ; or (d) sunflower. |
| 14 | Foods | (a) Brazil ginseng; or (b) castor bean; or (c) chamomile; or (d) cinnamon; or (e) <i>Dioscorea batatas</i> (Chinese yam); or (f) egg protein; or (g) fenugreek; or (h) garlic dust; or (i) green beans; or (j) guar; or (k) hops; or (l) paprika; or (m) pectin; or (n) rose hips; or (o) soybean lecithin; or (p) tea; or (q) thiamine (vitamin B); or (r) thyme. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| 15 | Industrial cleaning and sterilising agents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride; or (b) benzyl-C10-16-alkyldimethyl, chlorides; or (c) benzyl-C12-16-alkyldimethyl, chlorides; or (d) benzyl-C12-18-alkyldimethyl, chlorides; or (e) benzyl-C16-18-alkyldimethyl, chlorides; or (f) benzyldimethylstearyl ammonium chloride; or (g) cetalkonium chloride; or (h) chlorhexidine; or (i) chlorine; or (j) dialkyl methyl benzyl ammonium chloride; or (k) dicumyl-peroxide; or (l) dodecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride; or (m) dimethyl ethyl benzyl ammonium chloride; or (n) dodecyl-dimethylbenzylammonium; or (o) fluorine; or (p) n-alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride; or (q) persulphate salts; or (r) sodium hypochlorite; or (s) sodium metabisulfite. |
| 16 | Isocyanates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) diisocyanates; or (b) hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymers; or (c) isocyanates; or (d) toluene diisocyanate prepolymers. |
| 17 | Latex | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) latex; or (b) natural rubber. |
| 18 | Medications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ampicillin; or (b) amprolium; or (c) cimetidine; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

- (d) codeine; or
- (e) colistin; or
- (f) hydralazine; or
- (g) ipecacuanha; or
- (h) hydrocodone; or
- (i) isonicotinic acid hydrazide; or
- (j) methyl dopa; or
- (k) morphine; or
- (l) opiate compounds; or
- (m) oxycodone; or
- (n) papaverine; or
- (o) penicillamine; or
- (p) penicillins; or
- (q) phenylglycine acid chloride; or
- (r) psyllium; or
- (s) salbutamol intermediate; or
- (t) spiramycin; or
- (u) tetracycline; or
- (v) thebaine; or
- (w) tylosin tartrate; or
- (x) vancomycin.

19 Metals

- (a) aluminium; or
 - (b) aluminium chloride; or
 - (c) aluminium oxide; or
 - (d) aluminium compounds; or
 - (e) ammonium dichromate; or
 - (f) ammonium hexachloroplatinate (IV); or
 - (g) chromium; or
 - (h) chromium, metal; or
 - (i) chromium, hexavalent; or
 - (j) chromium, non-hexavalent; or
 - (k) cobalt; or
 - (l) cobalt compounds; or
 - (m) nickel; or
 - (n) nickel compounds; or
 - (o) platinum; or
 - (p) rhodium; or
-

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (q) soluble halogenated platinum compounds; or (r) titanium oxide/dioxide; or (s) tributyl tin oxide; or (t) tungsten carbide; or (u) tungsten carbide/cobalt; or (v) vanadium; or (w) welding fumes – gas metal arc welding on uncoated mild steel; or (x) welding fumes – stainless steel; or (y) stainless steel; or (z) zinc oxide. |
| 20 | Other reactive chemicals | (a) chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants heated; or (b) fluoride; or (c) furfuryl alcohol mixed with a catalyst; or (d) isolyzer; or (e) polyethylene terephthalate/polybutylene terephthal; or (f) polyfunctional aziridine; or (g) polypropylene heated; or (h) polyvinyl chloride heated; or (i) polyvinyl chloride non-heated; or (j) polyvinyl chloride thermally degraded; or (k) radiographic fixative; or (l) resin containing furfuryl alcohol; or (m) styrene; or (n) triglycidyl isocyanurate. |
| 21 | Pesticides | (a) 3-amino-5-mercapto-1;2;4-triazole; or (b) acephate; or (c) chloramine T; or (d) chlorothalonil (bravo, echo); or (e) diazinon; or (f) dimethoate; or (g) fenthion; or (h) malathion; or (i) nematicur; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (j) piperazine; or (k) piperazine citrate; or (l) piperazine hydrochloride; or (m) pyrethrins; or (n) pyrfon; or (o) safrotin; or (p) tetramethrin. |
| 22 | Plants and sensitising agents or irritants derived from plants | (a) almond dust; or (a) <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> ; or (b) <i>Chlorella</i> algae; or (c) gum arabic; or (d) henna; or (e) kapok; or (f) linseed oilcake; or (g) <i>Pinellia ternata</i> ; or (h) quillaja bark; or (i) rice dust; or (j) tall oil crude; or (k) tall oil – rosin; or (l) tobacco leaf; or (m) tragacanth; or (n) turpentine; or (o) <i>Vicia sativa</i> (vetch); or (p) weeping fig. |
| 23 | Reactive dyes | (a) Cibachrome Brilliant Scarlet 32; or (b) Drimarene Brilliant Blue K-BL; or (c) Drimarene Brilliant Yellow K-3GL; or (d) Lanazol Yellow 4G; or (e) Levafix Brilliant Yellow E36; or (f) Methyl Blue; or (g) Rifacion Orange HE 2G; or (h) Rifafix Yellow 3 RN; or (i) Rifazol Black GR; or (j) Rifazol Brilliant Orange 3R. |
| 24 | Sensitising agents or irritants derived from animals | (a) bat guano; or (b) bovine serum albumin; or (c) casein; or |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

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| | | (d) cat antigens; or |
| | | (e) chicken antigens; or |
| | | (f) cow antigens; or |
| | | (g) frog antigens; or |
| | | (h) guinea pig antigens; or |
| | | (i) lactoserum; or |
| | | (j) mice antigens; or |
| | | (k) pig antigens; or |
| | | (l) rabbit antigens; or |
| | | (m) rat antigens. |

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| 25 | Sensitising agents or irritants derived from fish or shellfish | (a) <i>Anisakis simplex</i> (herring worm) antigens; or |
| | | (b) clam antigens; or |
| | | (c) crab antigens; or |
| | | (d) cuttlefish antigens; or |
| | | (e) fishmeal; or |
| | | (f) nacre dust; or |
| | | (g) octopus antigens; or |
| | | (h) prawn antigens; or |
| | | (i) red soft coral antigens; or |
| | | (j) salmon antigens; or |
| | | (k) shrimp meal; or |
| | | (l) trout antigens. |

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| 26 | Soldering fluxes | (a) colophony soldering flux; or |
| | | (b) alkyl aryl polyether soldering flux; or |
| | | (c) zinc soldering flux. |

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| 27 | Wood | (a) <i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i> (African maple); or |
| | | (b) <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> (blackwood); or |
| | | (c) <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> (California redwood); or |
| | | (d) <i>Juglans olanchana</i> (Central American walnut); or |
| | | (e) <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> (eastern white cedar); or |
| | | (f) <i>Shorea sp.</i> (mahogany); or |
| | | (g) <i>Quercus robur</i> (oak); or |
| | | (h) <i>Thuja lpicata</i> (western red cedar). |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Schedule 3—Specified diseases relating to firefighters

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Item | Disease | ICD-10-AM reference | Employment |
| Skin diseases | | | |
| 1 | Dysplastic naevus | D22/M8727/0 | Employment involving work relating to: (d) firefighting; or (e) participating in a firefighting training course; or (f) instructing participants in a firefighter training course; at RAAF Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986. |
| 2 | Eczema or dermatitis | L20–L30 | The same as for item 1. |
| Diseases of the nervous system | | | |
| 3 | Multiple sclerosis | G35 | The same as for item 1. |
| 4 | Parkinson's disease | G20 | The same as for item 1. |
| 5 | Peripheral neuropathy | G62 | The same as for item 1. |
| 6 | Spinal muscular atrophy | G12 | The same as for item 1. |
| 7 | Erectile dysfunction | N48.4 | The same as for item 1. |
| 8 | Cauda equina syndrome | G95.9 | The same as for item 1. |
| 9 | Neurogenic bladder | N31.9 | The same as for item 1. |
| 10 | Non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy | G92 | The same as for item 1. |
| 11 | Acquired colour vision deficiency | H53.5 | The same as for item 1. |
| Mental diseases | | | |
| 12 | Depression | F32.0-F33.9, F34, F38 and F39 | The same as for item 1. |
| 13 | Sleep disorders with a neurological basis | G47.31 | The same as for item 1. |
| 14 | Bi-polar affective disorder | F31 | The same as for item 1. |
| 15 | Vertigo | R42 | The same as for item 1. |
| 16 | Memory loss | F04 | The same as for item 1. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 17 | Anxiety | F41 | The same as for item 1. |
| 18 | Panic disorders | F41.0 | The same as for item 1. |
| 19 | Impaired cognition | F03 | The same as for item 1. |
| 20 | Agoraphobia with panic disorder | F40.01 | The same as for item 1. |
| Malignant diseases | | | |
| 21 | Malignant neoplasms | C00–C96 | The same as for item 1. |
| 22 | Myeloproliferative disorders | C81–C96, D45 and D47 | The same as for item 1. |
| Liver diseases | | | |
| 23 | Liver disease (excluding diabetes) | K71 | The same as for item 1. |
| 24 | Pancreatic disease | K85–K86 | The same as for item 1. |
| Gastrointestinal diseases | | | |
| 25 | Irritable bowel disorder | K58 | The same as for item 1. |
| 26 | Ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease | K50–K51 | The same as for item 1. |
| 27 | Diverticulitis | K57 | The same as for item 1. |
| 28 | Bowel polyps | D12 | The same as for item 1. |
| Diseases of the immune system | | | |
| 29 | Mixed connective tissue disease | M35.1 | The same as for item 1. |
| 30 | Systemic lupus erythematosus | M32 | The same as for item 1. |
| 31 | Sarcoidosis | D86 | The same as for item 1. |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Attachment D

F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers

ADF personnel who worked on the F-111 Deseal/Reseal program and who meet a 'tier' definition (in other words, their work met certain criteria and was undertaken in specified timeframes) have access to compensation on a presumptive basis for the following conditions:

1. dysplastic naevus
2. eczema/dermatitis
3. multiple sclerosis (MS)
4. Parkinson's disease
5. peripheral neuropathy
6. spinal muscular atrophy
7. erectile dysfunction
8. cauda equina syndrome
9. neurogenic bladder
10. non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy
11. acquired colour vision deficiency
12. depression
13. sleep disorders with neurogenic basis
14. bipolar affective disorder
15. vertigo
16. memory loss
17. anxiety
18. panic disorders
19. impaired cognition
20. agoraphobia with panic disorder
21. malignant neoplasms
22. myeloproliferative disorders
23. liver disease
24. pancreatic disease
25. irritable bowel disorder
26. ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease
27. diverticulitis
28. bowel polyps
29. mixed connective tissue disease
30. systemic lupus erythematosus
31. sarcoidosis

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Attachment E

‘Decision Ready’ conditions

| CONDITION | STREAMLINED <i>(High acceptancerates)</i> | | STRAIGHT THROUGH PROCESSING <i>(Quantifiable SOP factor research)</i> | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | VEA | MRCA | VEA | MRCA |
| 1. Achilles tendinopathy and bursitis | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 2. Acquired cataract | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 3. Acute articular cartilage tear | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 4. Acute meniscal tear of the knee | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 5. Adjustment disorder – <i>Warlike service only</i> | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Anxiety disorder – <i>Warlike service only</i> | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa (keratoachanthoma of the conjunctiva) – <i>Reasonable Hypothesis only</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 8. Chondromalacia patella | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 9. Cut, stab, abrasion and laceration | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 10. Dislocation | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 11. Explosive blast injury | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 12. External bruise | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 13. External burn | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 14. Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 15. Fracture | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 16. Gunshot injury | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 17. Iliotibial band syndrome | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 18. Internal derangement of the knee | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 19. Intervertebral disc prolapse (Thoracolumbaronly) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Joint instability | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21. Labral tear | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 22. Lumbar spondylosis (now Thoracolumbar Spondylosis) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Malignant melanoma of the skin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 24. Malignant Neoplasm of the eye | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 25. Non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 26. Osteoarthritis (of a joint of a lower limb) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. Otitic Barotrauma (<i>limited cohorts</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 28. Patellar tendinopathy | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 29. Pinguecula (conjunctival degeneration) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 30. Plantar fasciitis | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 31. Posttraumatic stress disorder – <i>Warlike serviceonly</i> | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 32. Pterygium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 33. Rotator cuff syndrome | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34. Seborrhoeic keratosis (<i>Reasonable Hypothesisonly</i>) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 35. Sensorineural hearing loss | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 36. Shin splints | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 37. Sinus Barotrauma (<i>limited cohorts</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 38. Solar keratosis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 39. Sprains and strains | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 40. Thoracic spondylosis (now Thoracolumbar Spondylosis) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 41. Tinea of the skin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 42. Tinnitus | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 43. Trochanteric bursitis and gluteal tendinopathy | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and Repatriation Commission have also approved an additional streamlining policy for certain sequelae of service-related medical conditions. This policy allows Delegates to streamline the investigation and decision-making approach in relation to 44 conditions (sequelae) where they arise from specified service-related conditions. The Statements of Principles (SoPs) for these sequelae

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

contain factors providing a simple link between the sequelae and their corresponding identified causal condition, namely that the causal condition was present either 'before' or 'at the time of' the clinical onset of the sequela. The streamlining policy for these conditions simply requires the Delegate to be satisfied that:

- the claimant has a diagnosis for the claimed sequela and
- the corresponding causal condition
 - has already been accepted as service-related and
 - was present before/at the time of clinical onset of the claimed sequela (depending on the requirements of the relevant SoP)

Any policies requiring Delegates to re-assess the complete propagation chain do not apply in relation to claims for the 44 sequelae to which this streamlining policy applies. The sequelae approved for inclusion in this streamlining policy are listed below, along with the causal conditions which must have been accepted as service-related for the streamlining policy to apply.

Certain sequelae are streamlined under the MRCA and *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) in relation to certain causal conditions only, as follows:

| Sequela condition | Causal service-related condition which must be present | SOP factor requires the causal service-related condition to be present... |
|---|--|---|
| acquired cataract | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| alcohol use disorder* | substance use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | depressive disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| anosmia | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| aortic aneurysm or aortic wall disorder | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| aortic stenosis* | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter | hypertension | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| bipolar disorder | substance use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| bronchiectasis | inflammatory bowel disease | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| tooth wear (tooth attrition only) | bruxism | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| cardiomyopathy | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| carotid artery disease* | diabetes mellitus, | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| cerebrovascular accident | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| chronic pruritus ani* | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | inflammatory bowel disease | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| conjunctivitis | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| depressive disorder | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| Dupuytren disease* | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| erectile dysfunction* | depressive disorder, | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | diabetes mellitus, | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| female sexual dysfunction | depressive disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| gingivitis | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

| Sequela condition | Causal service-related condition which must be present | SOP factor requires the causal service-related condition to be present... |
|--|--|---|
| heart block | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| IgA nephropathy | inflammatory bowel disease | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| immune thrombocytopaenia | inflammatory bowel disease | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| ischaemic heart disease* | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| non-aneurysmal aortic atherosclerotic disease* | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| non-Hodgkin lymphoma | inflammatory bowel disease | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| osteomyelitis | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| otitis externa | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| periodontitis | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| peripheral artery disease* | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| peripheral neuropathy | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| porphyria cutanea tarda | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| renal artery atherosclerotic disease | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| renal stone disease* | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | inflammatory bowel disease | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| retinal vascular occlusion* | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| | hypertension | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| sick sinus syndrome | hypertension | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| steatohepatitis | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| subarachnoid haemorrhage | hypertension | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| subdural haematoma | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| substance use disorder* | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | depressive disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| suicide or attempted suicide* | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | depressive disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| | substance use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| tinea | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| tooth wear (tooth erosion) | alcohol use disorder | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| trigeminal neuropathy | diabetes mellitus | At the time of clinical onset of sequela |
| trigger finger | diabetes mellitus | Before clinical onset of sequela |
| Tuberculosis | alcohol use disorder | Before clinical onset of sequela |

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and
Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000010

Topic: Medical expenses privately incurred by veterans

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 28)

Senator the Hon David Fawcett asked:

Senator FAWCETT: That solves that. Again, a principle related matter is that the intent of this bill is merging as opposed to addressing a lot of longstanding issues. I notice as part of this, for example, that schedule 2 looks at things such as funeral benefits. You have rolled in some of the VEA type entitlements. You've also increased the dollar amount as part of that. So you have made changes to the quantum as well as the actual entitlement for a benefit. Why haven't you also then looked at things such as the gold card and white card payment amounts that we offer to practitioners to try to resolve some of the pretty widely reported problems? All of our witnesses this morning highlighted the difficulties that causes if we are not just merging but changing the financial threshold in one area. Why aren't we doing that in this important area of aligning, for example, with the NDIS level of payment?

Mr Kefford: I suppose there are a couple of elements to answer that. First of all, in relation to the funeral benefits as you've described them, there are changes happening in that space. There are small changes to align them. There are a number of policy issues—indeed, offsetting is another one—that are not directly attached to the harmonisation process. The fee schedule, while obviously relevant to our service delivery, I would characterise in that way. I would also say in relation to the evidence this morning that—we've canvassed this at estimates, so I won't go into all of it now—there are processes whereby there is a mechanism where prior approval can be sought for us to pay a fee above the scheduled amount. There is a separate process under which veterans who have paid are able to be reimbursed. I think the justification, Senator, would be obviously where this is dealing with a particular—

Senator FAWCETT: Can I clarify there? Veterans who have paid are reimbursed. Are they reimbursed the full amount they paid, or are they only reimbursed the scheduled amount that the card covers, so they are essentially required to pay a gap?

Mr Kefford: We'll confirm on notice, Senator. My understanding is the first time that happens, we will reimburse the full amount and then there is a process after that. I will come back to you on notice on the detail of that component. I want to make it clear that the bill responds to a recommendation of the interim report. There is a range of issues, including access to services and other matters, that no doubt will be covered by the commission when they report in a couple of weeks. There is an opportunity there, as we've referred to in our opening statement, for matters that are not directly attached to the harmonisation process to be further considered, including by the government and the parliament in due course.

Answer

Under DVA's legislative arrangements, eligible DVA Card holders cannot be charged any out-of-pocket costs by providers. In general, DVA pays a rate higher than the equivalent Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fee. The loading varies depending on the service.

For medical expenses privately incurred by veteran card holders, DVA has a reimbursement process. The first step, or the first claim, DVA will reimburse full out-of-pocket fees for treatment expenses, less any benefit claimed through Medicare and/or Private Health Insurance. For a second claim, DVA will reimburse the out-of-pocket expenses between the DVA Fee Schedule rates, less any benefit claimed through Medicare and/or Private Health Insurance or, under exceptional circumstances, will reimburse the full out-of-pocket expenses. For subsequent claims, DVA will consider, on a case-by-case basis, any exceptional circumstances that may exist and, if met, the claim will be paid at the requested rate, which will be at the rate charged to the veteran. This approach allows exceptional circumstances to be addressed whilst also supporting the policy that veterans access services from medical practitioners who charge DVA rates.

Veterans can submit a claim for their out-of-pocket medical expenses by completing the Medical Expenses Privately Incurred form. Further information can be found on the DVA website here: <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/help-cover-healthcare-costs/medical-expenses-privately-incurred>

DVA also has a prior financial approval process that allows veterans to request prior financial approval for medical and/or allied health services for safe and effective treatments that are not covered by the MBS or where the fee requested is higher than the DVA scheduled fee. This is a mechanism to help ensure veterans are not out of pocket when receiving medical treatment.

In any event, the fees paid to practitioners are not set in legislation and are therefore outside the scope of the legislative reforms.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000011

Topic: Funeral compensation

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 29)

Senator David Fawcett asked:

Senator FAWCETT: I guess my point in part is if the eligibility for support with the condition is based on a condition that occurred at time X in the past, whether you apply today or whether you apply on 2 July 2026, the event still occurred back then. You are still eligible, potentially, for that greater amount. So let's take schedule 2 in the funeral payments going from \$2,000 to \$3,000. If somebody applied today on 1 July 2026, would they get a top-up of \$1,000 because they are actually eligible? What we don't want to see is people going for 12 months without support in some area because they think they will be better off when the condition that makes them eligible occurred in the past. I understand you can't pay it until 1 July 2026. Should we as a committee be putting forward an amendment saying if somebody is eligible, they should be able to apply now, get what they are eligible for now, but if in 2026 there were a delta, that delta will be paid to them as a back payment?

Mr Brown: I think you acknowledged this, Senator. That is not the way the bill is constructed at the moment. It is based on the date of application. The amended act would only apply from claims lodged on or after 1 July 2026. I think the difficulty is how far you go back. Clearly, we're not in a position to be able to reassess everyone who has ever got a funeral allowance under the VEA. I am not suggesting that you are suggesting that.

Senator FAWCETT: I'm trying to address the concern that has been raised with us today that there will be some people who may delay asking for support because of this potential benefit. Yes, at the end of the day, that is a decision they make. If we were to advocate for something like that, for any new applications to try to encourage or discourage people from delaying, there would be that catch-up. What would the implications be? I'm happy for you to take that on notice given the time.

Mr Kefford: I think we would want to think about that, Senator. Certainly the model at the moment is to not back cast. I think my initial response would be—I agree with Mr Brown—that the timing and drawing of that line at which that back-casting would occur would be very difficult. I think administering that scheme would be difficult as well. But let's come back with some further thought on that proposal.

Answer

The application provisions governing any potential increase to payments relating to funeral expenses would apply prospectively where the veteran's death occurs on or after 1 July 2026.

Funeral benefits under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) are automatically issued to the estate of deceased veterans who were ex-prisoners of war or veterans who were in receipt of certain rates of Disability Compensation at the time of their death (the Extreme Disablement Adjustment; the Special Rate of Disability Compensation Payment; or certain increased rates due to blindness and amputation). This funeral benefit is \$2,000 and does not need to be claimed – it is automatically issued.

The VETS Bill would move the above provisions into the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) - via new section 268AA - from 1 July 2026 and would also increase the rate to \$3,000. The VETS Bill also amends the application provisions of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004* so that section 268AA of the MRCA only applies in relation to a person who dies on or after the date of commencement. These provisions make it clear that the \$3,000 amount only applies to the abovementioned VEA categories if the veteran dies on or after 1 July 2026 – deaths before that date will only be eligible for the \$2,000 amount.

The VETS Bill would also allow the dependants of all veterans who die on or after 1 July 2026 to claim the higher rate of funeral compensation which is available under the MRCA (up to a maximum of \$14,639.09), subject to meeting the relevant criteria in section 12 of the MRCA, which is in cases of:

- service-related deaths;
- where the veteran was eligible for the Additional Disablement Amount or Special Rate Disability Pension under the MRCA; or
- where the veteran was assessed at 80 or more impairment points. Once again, this only applies where the veteran dies on or after 1 July 2026.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 [Provisions] – 16 August 2024
Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio

IQ24-000012

Topic: Appointments

(Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Hansard Proof 16 August 2024, p 30)

Senator David Fawcett asked:

Senator FAWCETT: Sure. That would be good. This is my last question. It is probably not one that the veteran community is going to be particularly exercised over, but I'm interested in it from the governance perspective. Under your current oversight boards and commissions, the defence minister appoints two people. The defence minister, under the new arrangements, will not appoint anyone. The CDF will appoint one person. Why that change?

Mr Brown: The defence minister will appoint one person under the new arrangements.

Senator FAWCETT: Defence minister?

Mr Brown: Yes.

Senator FAWCETT: The CDF appoints one person from a defence perspective. The veterans' affairs minister appoints two. Perhaps that is my misreading.

Mr Brown: I think it's your misreading, sorry, Senator. You are right; the MRCC at the moment has two defence representatives. My recollection is that they are nominated by the Minister for Defence. Mr Hill is quickly thumbing through. The bill would amend the act so that it would reduce to one defence representative and expands to include a representative of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. That is the intention.

Senator FAWCETT: Sure.

Mr Brown: I believe that is described in the bill as a member nominated by the minister.

Senator FAWCETT: Yes. But that one defence representative is nominated by the CDF. That is my reading. That is opposed to two representatives nominated by the minister.

Mr Brown: That is not the way the bill has been drafted, Senator, no. It is one member representing the Department of Defence. From memory, it is the Minister for Defence that nominates that person, not the CDF.

Mr Hill: This is the defence minister?

Mr Brown: Yes, the defence minister.

Senator FAWCETT: Maybe I need to go to Specsavers!

Mr Brown: I wouldn't want to speculate.

Mr Kefford: We might come back on notice with a particular section, Senator, if that would be helpful.

Senator FAWCETT: Sure.

Mr Brown: We'll do a comparison.

Answer

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 will amend the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) to provide for one member of the Repatriation Commission to be nominated by the Defence Minister under new subsection 360C(8) (Schedule 4, Item 23 of the Bill).

This differs from the composition of the current Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, which has two members nominated by the Defence Minister under subparagraph 364(1)(b)(iii) of the MRCA.

Regrettably, the Explanatory Memorandum tabled in July 2024 incorrectly described new subsection 360C(8) and included the Chief of the Defence Force in the clause. DVA is currently updating the Explanatory Memorandum to remove the reference to the Chief of the Defence Force and replace it with Defence Minister. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Matt Keogh MP, will then present the correction of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Parliament and circulate as required by the Legislation Handbook. The Bill itself is correct as tabled.