



**Australian Government**

**Defence**

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation  
Committee**

**Inquiry into the  
Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support  
(Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024**

**Department of Defence  
Submission**

**August 2024**

## Defence Response

Defence welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024. This is a unique opportunity to remove barriers for veterans and their families. Defence is fully supportive of the Bill and acknowledges the extensive work that has been undertaken across Government and with the community in getting to this point.

Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs have used extensive internal and external communication channels available to both departments to advise veterans and members on the proposed changes.

Defence agrees that the evidence supporting the Simplification and Harmonisation of Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support is overwhelming. The complexity inherent in the current tri-Act system combined with outdated concepts in some areas of legislation leads to poor outcomes for veterans and their families.

Defence has supported the Department of Veterans' Affairs in their work towards harmonisation and simplification and supports the Bill as introduced to Parliament.

The more modern *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* and the included targeted support pillars of treatment, incapacity payments and non-economic loss compensation, under a wellbeing/rehabilitation focus will dramatically improve outcomes for veterans and their families.

Defence is fully supportive of the Bill, and recommends its passage through the Parliament.