

Female Veterans

POLICY FORUM



14–15 JUNE 2023



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

transforming
DVA

Housing and Homelessness in the Female Veteran Community

Setting the Scene with:

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Housing and Homelessness – What do we know?

| Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimates of Homelessness (ABS 2021) | Specialist Homelessness Services annual reports (AIHW annually) | Use of Homelessness Services by Contemporary ex-serving ADF members 2011-17 (AIHW November 2019) |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ABS 2021 Census results found 1,555 current or former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members identified as experiencing homelessness in Australia.• This represents 0.27 per cent of the 581,139 Australians who ever served in the ADF.• Both with female and male ADF members experiencing homelessness at similar rates.• In addition to those classified as homeless, there are 1,005 members of the ADF community living in marginal housing circumstances. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIHW's analysis of the use of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in 2021-22 reported that 1,400 SHS clients identified as serving or former ADF members.• From this ADF cohort, 56 per cent had mental health issues, 25 per cent were experiencing family and domestic violence and 17 per cent had alcohol and drug issues.• At the start of support, 52 per cent homeless, 48 per cent at risk of homelessness.• AIHW's results found female veteran representation increased by an average of 4.4 per cent per year, compared with 0.5 per cent for males over a five year period. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyses use of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) by contemporary ex-serving ADF members between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2017.• The proportion of ex-serving women (1.7 per cent) who used SHS during this period was 1.6 times as high as the proportion of ex-serving men (1.0 per cent).• 46 per cent of the women who sought help for homelessness were single parents compared with 8 per cent of men.• 53 per cent of ex-serving women SHS clients also required domestic and family violence services compared with 4 per cent of ex-serving men. |

Housing and Homelessness – Government investment

- ❑ \$10.0 billion for the Housing Australia Future Fund, (including \$30.0 million for veterans and \$100.0 million for women and children)
- ❑ \$3.6 million for the Scott Palmer Services Centre in Darwin
- ❑ \$46.2 million to increase the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme
- ❑ \$67.5 million for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement in 2023-24
- ❑ A 15 per cent increase to the Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

Housing and Homelessness –

‘Working with Veterans: A Toolkit for Community Housing Organisations’

- ❑ DVA partnered with the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) to develop a veteran-specific toolkit for community housing providers.
- ❑ The toolkit consists of five training modules which provide an overview of the veteran experience, risk and protective factors, service needs and available referral pathways.
- ❑ The resources will advise community housing provider what veteran-specific supports and services are available, including DVA entitlements.

Housing and Homelessness – Relevant DVA Initiatives

- ☐ Fully funded mental health care for life
- ☐ Personalised case management
- ☐ Healthcare for service-related conditions
- ☐ Immediate financial support
- ☐ Specialised counselling and peer support
- ☐ Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling
- ☐ Transition assistance