



The Bosun's Call



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Once Navy, Always Navy

November 2024

Royal Australian Naval Review Sydney 22 October 2024



Officers and sailors from HMA Ships Kuttabul, Watson, Waterhen, Penguin, Canberra and Supply as Their Majesties King Charles III, our Patron, and Queen Camilla pass Garden Island during a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review in Sydney NAA banner, Harbour. The Chief of Navy invited members of the Naval Association of Australia to join with the RAN members on Garden Island and a party of eight members of the NAA, lead by the National President David Manolas with three others from the ACT (including two ex WRANS) three from NSW and one from Tasmania.

The members of the NAA were fallen in further around the line of sailors on the right of the photo.

Photo LSIS Abdus Chowdhury

After arriving at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt for a short 'meet the public' opportunity, the King and Queen departed by boat to carry out the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review which included an Australian Defence Force fly-over.

Their Majesties, accompanied by the Governor-General, Chief of the Defence Force and Chief of Navy, reviewed His Majesty's Australian Ships anchored in Sydney Harbour which included HMAS Hobart III, HMAS Warramunga II, HMAS Arunta II, HMAS Gascoyne II and HMAS Yarra IV



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Nuclear Test Medal

Operational Areas

3. The operational areas for the medal are defined as the territories, waters, and airspace of the following locations where the tests were conducted:

- (1) Christmas Island
- (2) Emu Field, Australia
- (3) Malden Island, Kiribati
- (4) Maralinga, Australia
- (5) Montebello Islands, Australia
- (6) South Australia
- (7) Western Australia

Qualifying Service

4. The Medal is awarded for service of any length.

Eligible Personnel

5. Eligible personnel are defined as follows:

- (1) UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.
- (2) UK Service and civilian personnel who served at the locations where American atmospheric nuclear tests took place in 1962 under Operation DOMINIC.
- (3) Foreign nationals who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.
- (4) The medal can be awarded posthumously to the legal next of kin of eligible individuals who have since died.

6. UK Service and civilian personnel who contributed to the test programme remotely from the UK, or any other locations, between 1952-1967 **are not** eligible for the Medal. Eligibility is only for service completed in the operational areas defined at paragraph 3 where the atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted.

Validation of Eligibility

7. In considering whether an individual qualifies for the Medal, evidence must be available to show that an individual had served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

8. The primary source to validate if an individual qualifies for the Medal is the Nuclear Weapons Test Participant Study (NWTPS) database, owned and maintained by the UK Health Security Agency. Armed Forces Service records can also be used to establish/confirm eligibility for Service personnel.



9. If an individual has an entry in the NWTPS database, or if the Armed Forces Service records reference the name of an operation or a participating ship, unit, or squadron, or that service was completed in one of the operational (geographic) areas of the tests during the qualifying period, then an individual shall be considered to qualify for the Medal.

10. Where applications need to be considered against the NWTPS database, this will be undertaken by the UK Health Security Agency in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence Medal Office, and in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act Regulations.

11. In cases where Service personnel do not feature on the NWTPS database or where evidence of service on the test programme is not recorded in Armed Forces Service records, further information will be sought from the applicant(s) and from the relevant single Service Historical Branch.

12. The Atomic Weapons Establishment will be the responsible authority for making recommendations to the Ministry of Defence on whether applicants who were working for the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment/Atomic Energy Research Establishment are eligible for the Medal if they do not appear in the NWTPS database.

Foreign Nationals (See page 6)

13. Applications received in respect of foreign nationals will be passed to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for assessment in the first instance. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be the responsible authority for making recommendations to the Ministry of Defence on whether individuals are eligible for the Medal. This process will be undertaken in conjunction with officials from the relevant in-country Embassy/High Commission.

14. Medals for foreign nationals will be passed to the TBC department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office who will arrange for despatch via the relevant in-country Embassy/High Commission.

Earlier report in National BC Apr 24

The Naval Association of Australia Inc Patron-in-Chief His Majesty, King Charles III
ABN 56 653 989 978

Editor: Peter Cooke-Russell Contact peter.cookerussell@gmail.com

HM King Charles III and Queen Camila received in Canberra

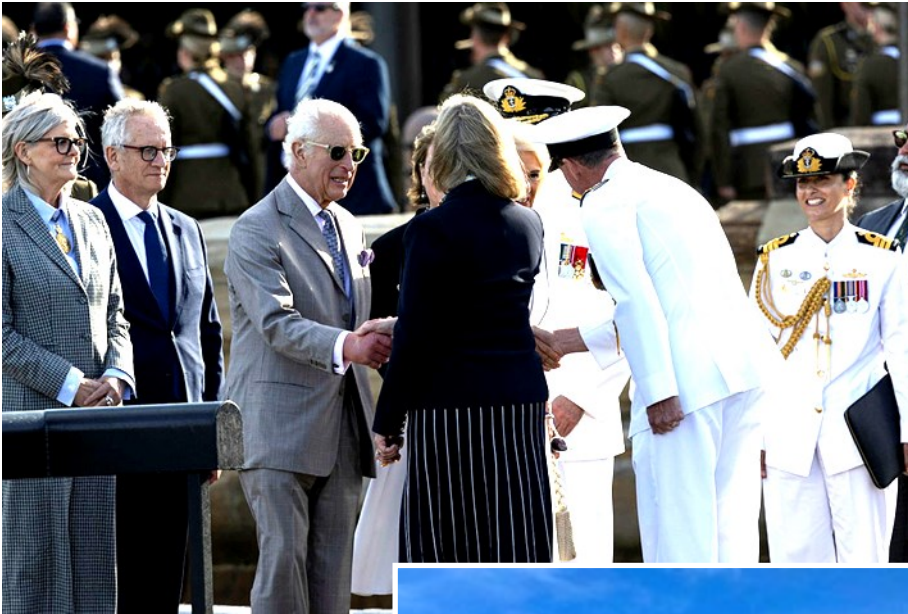


His Majesty King Charles III inspects Australia's Federation Guard at Parliament House in Canberra on 21 October 2024

Photo: LEUT Jamie Elters



Royal Australian Naval Review Sydney 22 October 2024



Left: Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla are greeted by Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, and Mrs. Jodi Hammond during the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour

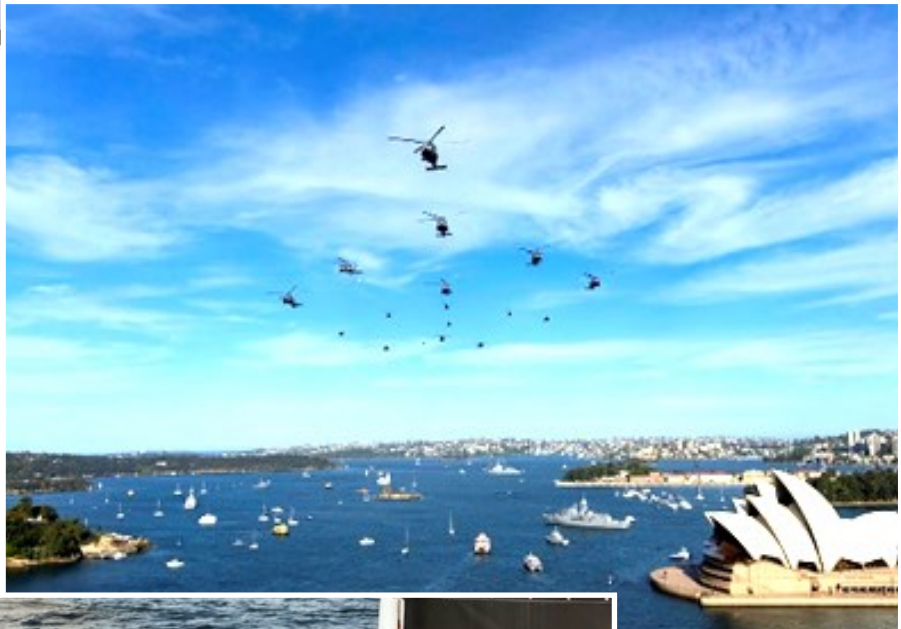
Photo: LSIS Jarrod Mulvihill

Below: A combined Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army fly-over during a Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour by Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Photo: LACW Aiesha White-Kratz

Below: Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla with Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn, AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (left), Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston, AC, RAN and Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AO, RAN, onboard the Admiral Hudson during a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour.

Photo: LSIS Lucinda Allanson

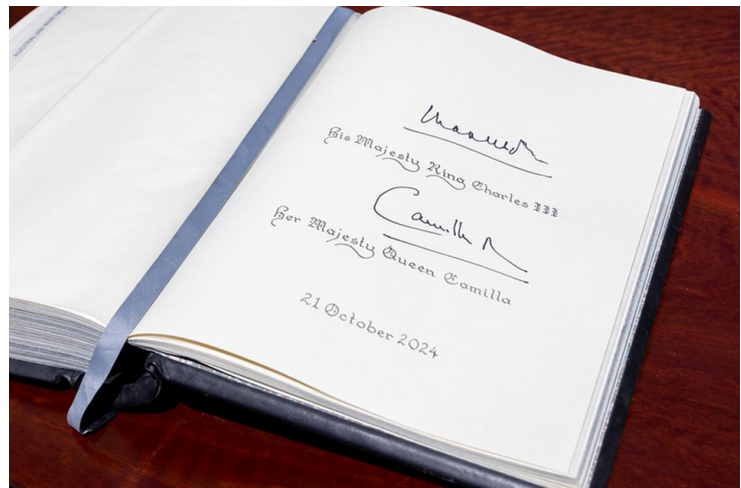


Royal visit to the Australian War Memorial Canberra



Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla visit the Australian War Memorial on 21 October 2024.

Photos: Kym Smith



Last Post Ceremony 23 October 2024

Able Seaman Max Buckland

HMAS Australia

Died 23 October 1944

Leyte Gulf



ACT Section Vice President Alex McGown laying the wreath marking the death of Max Buckland who was killed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf 80 years ago



Photos: Flickr

Claim for Australian participants of the British Nuclear Tests Program Commemorative Medallion

DVA Form D9075 (Extract)

A claim may be made using this application form by;

- Anyone who was directly involved in or provided support to the British Nuclear Test Program in Australia, including members and former members of the Australian Defence Force, Australian Public Service employees and third party civilian contractors (herein known as 'Participant').
- Widow(er)s of people who were directly involved in or provided support to the British Nuclear Test Program in Australia, including members and former members of the Australian Defence Force, Australian Public Service employees and third party civilian contractors (herein known as 'Widow(er)').

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the Medallion, a person must have been alive on 19 June 2006.

A person is automatically eligible if:

- they are eligible for the non-liability health treatment under the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006 (APTA); or
- they are the widow(er) of a person eligible for the non-liability health treatment.

A person may also be deemed eligible if:

- records show that they were present during the prescribed nuclear test periods as defined in the APTA and they can demonstrate they were undertaking duties in support of the Nuclear Tests but were outside the prescribed locations. Examples of these duties may include patrolling perimeters of nuclear test exclusion zones, ferrying supplies and provisions and providing logistical support.
- they must also have been an Australian resident at the time of the tests; or they are the widow(er) of an eligible participant

Please return the completed Form to:

Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Remembrance Day 11 November 2024



Above: National President David Manolas lays the NAA wreath



Left: Governor General HE The Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC laying the National wreath



Above: Minister For Veterans' Affairs the Honourable Matt Keogh ; and at



Left: Ms Robynne Mitchell (left), President of War Widows ACT and National TPI President Ms Pat McCabe lay their wreaths



Cyclone Tracy Darwin 25 December 1974 50th Anniversary

Left: Cyclone's effect on Darwin's northern suburbs

Right: HMAS Arrow after being jammed under the access bridge to Stokes Hill Wharf

Below: Civilian evacuation from Darwin



The RAN embarked upon its largest peacetime disaster relief operation to date on Christmas Day 1974. In the early hours of 25 December, Cyclone Tracy devastated the city of Darwin. Wind speeds were in excess of 160 knots (296 kilometres per hour), killing 49 people ashore and a further 16 at sea including two of HMAS *Arrow's* crew.

The response of Operation Navy Help Darwin was swift. RAN aircraft arrived the following day, Boxing Day, carrying:

- medical supplies
- relief workers
- the Navy clearance diving team.

At the same time, RAN ships began departing from all parts of the country, with 13 ships contributing to the relief effort. The initial priority was search and rescue. In addition, the RAN evacuated residents and took them to bases on the east coast:

- HMAS *Kuttabul*, HMAS *Penguin* and HMAS *Watson* in Sydney
- HMAS *Moreton* in Brisbane.

A shore command headquarters was established at Admiralty House to coordinate working parties which were typically composed of 10 or 15 officers and sailors, depending upon the nature of the task. Throughout January, naval personnel spent 17,979 staff days ashore, with up to 1,200 ashore at the peak of the operation. Duties included:

- clearing 1,593 blocks
- cleaning schools, government and commercial buildings and recreational facilities
- installing generators
- rewiring houses
- repairing electrical and air conditioning systems
- reroofing and weatherproofing buildings
- maintaining and repairing vehicles.

Some parties worked to save rare plants in the Botanic Gardens. Hygiene parties disposed of spoiled foodstuffs from houses, supermarkets and warehouses. Personnel from HMAS *Coonawarra* supported civil relief organisations and staffed communication centres. Sea Power Centre

Quick facts

- It was small but intense, the radius of the gale-force winds was only 50km.
- Made landfall just north of Fannie Bay at 3:30am on Christmas Day 1974 and passed directly over Darwin.
- Wind gust of 217kph was recorded before anemometer at Darwin Airport failed. Maximum wind gusts have been estimated at up to 240kph.
- Darwin received 250mm of rain in 12 hours.
- Debris indicated a four-metre storm surge at Casuarina Beach.
- At least 90 per cent of homes in Darwin were demolished or badly damaged.
- Total damage bill came to around \$800 million or nearly \$4.5 billion in today's money.
- More than 30,000 Darwin residents were evacuated after the cyclone, many never returned.

ABC Sources include [Bureau of Meteorology](#)

Advocacy News



Australian Government

The new Administrative Review Tribunal

The Administrative Review Tribunal will commence operation on Monday, 14 October 2024. It will replace the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

The new Tribunal can review the same types of decisions as the AAT. It will be user-focused, accessible, independent and fair. The legislation makes changes in response to what people told us was working well, and what needed to be improved, in the AAT.

What does this mean for you?

If you have an existing review before the AAT

You do not need to do anything. Your matter will be automatically transferred to the new Tribunal. The Tribunal will be at the same addresses and have the same staff. The new laws apply from 14 October, but the Tribunal will deal with your matter in a way that is efficient and fair.

If the AAT has made a decision

AAT decisions will not be considered again in the new Tribunal. You can apply to the federal courts for a review of the AAT decision, if the decision was made in the last 28 days (35 days for migration decisions) or you ask the court for an extension of time. The letter you got from the AAT with the decision will have more information about this.

If the AAT decision was in the Social Security and Child Support Division, you can ask the Tribunal to review the decision a second time, if the AAT decision was made in the last 28 days or you ask the Tribunal for an extension of time. The letter you got from the AAT with the decision will have more information about this.

If you want to seek review of a government decision, but have not yet applied to the AAT

Up until 14 October, you can apply to the AAT for review of that decision. Your application will automatically transfer to the new Tribunal when it commences.

From 14 October, you can apply to the new Tribunal. This includes if the decision was made before 14 October. Your notice of decision will tell you how long you have to apply, or you may be able to ask the Tribunal for an extension of time. For information about how to apply, visit the AAT website on www.aat.gov.au.

What else do I need to know?

The new Tribunal will mostly work in the same way as the AAT, but there are changes to make it better. For example, the new Tribunal:

- has more resources to deal with matters more quickly
- must consider accessibility and user needs in how it approaches reviews
- has more ways to keep reviews moving efficiently, including registrars being able to help with management of proceedings
- has a new guidance and appeals panel, which can consider reviews that have wider impacts for a lot of people, and can review some Tribunal decisions a second time if there might have been a mistake

More information

For more information, visit the AAT website on www.aat.gov.au. This website will automatically go to the new Tribunal website from 14 October.

If you have questions about your case, please call the AAT on 1800 228 333.

For information about the reform to Australia's system of administrative review, go to the [Attorney-General's Department website](#).

Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program — Information for veterans

Last updated:

23 May 2024

What is the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program?

The Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program uses a proactive approach to manage your chronic conditions to improve your wellbeing and quality of life and reduce the risk of unplanned hospitalisations.

Participation in the program will assist you to be actively involved in the ongoing management of your health and wellbeing, through working closely with and receiving the support of your GP, nurse coordinator and any other health professionals who are in your care team. Other health professionals may include, for example, cardiologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists or mental health specialists. With your consent, your GP will work with you in a face-to-face appointment to develop an individualised care plan to:

- meet your health needs
- support you to achieve your health goals
- provide education and guide you to understand your health
- manage your ongoing care.

Your care coordinator, who is usually a practice nurse, will then lead the coordination of your care under the supervision of your GP. This will involve regular face to face contact, and may also involve some phone calls from your care coordinator, depending on your care needs.

The CVC Program is designed to be an ongoing program with enrolment continuing as long as you can benefit from participation.

If you are a Veteran Gold Card holder with a chronic health condition or White Card holder with a chronic DVA-accepted mental health condition, and you meet the other eligibility program criteria, your GP may enrol you in the program. Speak with your GP to determine if you are eligible.

Who is eligible?

If you think you would benefit from participating in the CVC Program, speak to your GP to determine if you are eligible. You will need to have either:

- a [Veteran Gold Card](#) and one or more chronic health condition/s or
- a [Veteran White Card](#) and one or more chronic DVA-accepted mental health condition/s.

A DVA-accepted mental health condition is a condition for which DVA has accepted liability (as being related to military service).

You will also need to:

- meet the criteria for benefitting from the program which your GP will assess
- be an Australian resident and live in Australia
- consent to participate and agree to a comprehensive care plan developed with your GP.

You will not be eligible to participate in the CVC Program if you:

- are taking part in the Department of Health and Aged Care Transition Care Programme
- are living in residential care (other than for respite purposes) or
- have a condition that is likely to be terminal within 12 months after you would be admitted to the program be eligible.

If you think you may be eligible, talk to your usual GP.

If you are not eligible, you can access mental health treatment at no cost to you through [Non-Liability Health Care \(NLHC\)](#).

How do you access the CVC Program?

Any GP can provide the CVC Program. GPs are responsible for assessing and enrolling patients in the CVC Program.

You should speak to your usual GP to determine if you are eligible for the program. The CVC Program is delivered by your usual GP who understands your health care needs.

If you do not have a usual GP, check with the GPs you approach that they accept Veteran Gold Card holders and White Card holders before you visit them.

Your initial assessment and care plan development will be undertaken as a face-to-face appointment in your GP's practice/clinic location or in your own home (subject to GP home visit arrangements and individual preference). It will not be undertaken via telehealth.

Your participation in the CVC Program will involve regular face-to-face contact and may also involve some phone calls from your care coordinator as well, depending on your care needs.

Your GP can access information about the CVC Program on the [CVC provider webpage](#).

Are there costs involved?

The CVC Program provides coordination of all of your health conditions at no cost to you. GPs are funded for delivering of your treatment and health services, including coordinating your health care through the CVC Program.

(Continued on page 11)

Applications for the 2024-25 Veteran Wellbeing Grant round now open

12 November 2024

The 2024-25 Veteran Wellbeing Grants (VWG) round is now open with over \$3.8 million of funding available to benefit veterans and families.

The program provides crucial funding to ex-service organisations for community-based projects that enhance the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.

VWG supports initiatives that:

- improve mental health and overall wellbeing
- raise awareness of veteran-specific issues
- create safe, inclusive spaces that foster social connection, and
- engage younger veterans in meaningful ways.

Eligible organisations can apply for small grants of up to \$50,000 and large grants of up to \$200,000, an uplift from the previous \$150,000 last round.

Some initiatives that received funding in the last round of funding included mentoring training, healthy cooking courses, music programs, trauma informed yoga workshops and sporting programs.

Ex-service and community organisations passionate about making a lasting and positive impact on the lives of veterans and their families are encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply visit [GrantConnect](#).

Applications for the 2024–25 round of Veteran Wellbeing Grants close on 17 December 2024.

Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program — Information for veterans

(Continued from page 10)

If you are a Veteran White Card holder you may need to pay for treatment or health services that are included in your Care Plan and are not related to an accepted condition on your White Card or funded under [Non-Liability Health Care \(NLHC\)](#) or [Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Program \(PAMT\)](#).

Why does DVA do CVC Program participant feedback surveys?

DVA conducts Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program participant feedback surveys to identify ways to improve the CVC Program. We do not seek feedback on individual GP practices or individual health professionals. We do not collect any identifying information on CVC survey respondents or health professionals.

Participation in the survey is entirely

voluntary for CVC participants.

The final report from the 2023 CVC Program participants' survey has been received. DVA would like to thank participants for their feedback, which will be used to continue to provide high quality services to the veteran community. Key findings from the survey were overall satisfaction with the CVC program, with participants citing the positive contribution to their health and wellbeing.

How do I get more information?

A [CVC Program information brochure](#) has been developed to provide GPs and veterans with more detailed information about the CVC Program.

Contact Us

If you have queries about the CVC Program you can phone us on [1800 VETERAN](#) (1800 838 372) or use the online [General Enquiry form](#).

DVA Contacts

Provider enquiry numbers

- Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: [1300 550 017](tel:1300550017)
- Provider enquiries: [1800 550 457](tel:1800550457)
- Transport bookings: [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455)
- [Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre](#) (VAPAC): [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580)

Hearing or speech impairment assistance

- If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service](#) (NRS):
- Talk To You (TTY) users phone [1800 555 677](tel:1800555677) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Speak and Listen users phone [1800 555 727](tel:1800555727) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Internet relay users connect to the [NRS](#) then ask for 1800 838 372

Claims processing data – October 2024

A snapshot of October 2024:

- DVA received **8,650** claims in October bringing the total for the financial year to date (FYTD) to 34,174 claims - 29.6 per cent higher than the same period last year.
- DVA made **9,013** determinations and has finalised 33,793 claims in the FYTD, 4.6 per cent more than the equivalent period last year.
- **73,353** claims were with an officer for processing and **7,082** claims were yet to be allocated for processing.
- The average time taken to process a MRCA IL claim was **304 days** in the 2024-25 FYTD (1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024), compared to 410 days in the corresponding 2023-24 FYTD.

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone: [1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN(1800838372))

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation: health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit: www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017 (Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1:** Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- **Step 2:** Supply the documents you need to;
- **Step 3:** Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036