



National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 7

Once Navy, Always Navy

August 2022

Fleet Air Arm celebrates 75th anniversary

13 July 2022

The Navy Fleet Air Arm (FAA) hosted a black tie reception at the FAA Museum in Nowra as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations.

Former Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, local Indigenous Elder Uncle Sonny Simms, Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Amanda Findley and past and present FAA members mingled with other guests on a viewing deck above the museum's historic collection of Navy planes and helicopters.

Commander Fleet Air Arm Commodore David Frost said the FAA has contributed to Australian Defence Force operations in war and peacetime, including the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East.

"More recently, it has contributed to humanitarian and disaster relief operations in Fiji and Tonga, and also bushfire and flood relief in eastern Australia," Commodore Frost said.

"While we reflect on the distinguished service of our naval aviators, I'd also like to express our gratitude for the enduring support we've received from the public, in particular the Shoalhaven Community, in which we live and work."

Mayor Findley said having a big Navy community in Nowra was important.

"We appreciate what it is that you men and women do for our country every single day," Mayor Findley said.

Mayor of the City of Shoalhaven Amanda Findley, left, Maritime Logistics Personnel Leading Seaman Stephanie Hart and Commander Fleet Air Arm Commodore David Frost, cut a cake to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the FAA.

Photo: Leading Seaman Ryan Tascas

The FAA was built on the shoulders of accomplished aviators such as Korean War veteran Commodore (retd) Norman Lee, who joined the Navy as a recruit rating pilot in 1948.

"Only claim to fame, 254 Firefly accident-free axial deck landings," Commodore Lee said.

Commander (Rtd) Ian Maxwell 'Max' Speedy, who joined the Navy as a midshipman in 1962, said his most challenging flying was in the famed Bell UH-1H Iroquois 'Huey' in Vietnam.

"I think the remarkable thing is the way we transitioned from essentially sitting out over the ocean in the hover with an anti-submarine mission in mind, to going into a red-hot and steamy landing zone, having people killed and proceeding to doing your best to stay alive."

The retired Commander said the FAA remained a critical arm of the Australian Defence Force.

"Having reached 75 years is a matter of history and the next 75 years will be just as important."

By Lieutenant Brendan Trembath



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia



Royal Commission
into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Interim Report

The Commissioners submitted the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Interim Report to the Governor-General on 11 August, for the Government's consideration. The report includes some urgent recommendations as well as preliminary observations. The Interim Report may be found at:

<https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-defence-and-veteran-suicide-interim-report>

The Royal Commission expects the report to be tabled by the Government shortly after it has been provided to the Governor-General, once this has occurred we will be able to publish the hard copy and digital editions and share links to the digital version through our newsletter to subscribers.

Research underway to map veteran services

The Australian Catholic University's Veteran Life Research Team has been engaged by the Royal Commission to undertake a project to help improve its understanding of the veteran service sector.

The research will: identify services offered by government, commercial providers, not-for-profit organisations, and charities that support veterans and their families; and explore the characteristics of these services and the sector more widely.

To inform the research, a survey is now open to organisations that support veteran and Defence communities. The survey takes 15 minutes to complete, is open until 2 September 2022 and participation is voluntary. You can access the survey at [Australian Veterans' Services Mapping Project Survey \(qualtrics.com\)](https://qualtrics.com).

Research is one of the methods the Royal Commission is using to better understand the supports and services available to serving and ex-serving Defence

Families and children

Many family members, children of serving and ex-serving members and young people have already shared their stories with the Royal Commission. The Commissioners have heard from, and will continue to hear from, families at public hearings and in private sessions. We appreciate and respect the impact service life has on families and children of serving and ex-serving Defence members.

The Royal Commission wants to hear from everyone impacted by suicide and suicide risk factors in Defence and veteran communities. Every submission is read and recorded, including those made by children and family members of serving and ex-serving Defence members. Families can make submissions as a group or as individuals, and parents or carers can also make submissions on behalf of their children, with their child's consent.

We understand that it may be difficult for young people or children to express themselves using the written word or through a formal submission process. You can attach drawings, paintings, artwork or photos to your submission.

Enquiries

You can call us on 1800 329 095 or +61 2 5122 3105, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday AEST, excluding public holidays.

For a free-of-charge translator or interpreter phone the [Translating and Interpreting Service](#) on 131 450. Ask to be connected to 02 5122 3105.

Or you can email us at DVSRC.Enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au.

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Website: <https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au> |

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CN/OUT/2022/746

Mr David Manolas
National President
Naval Association of Australia
2 Lakeview Drive
Murrumbateman NSW 2582

Dear David

Thank you for the kind words in your letter of 30 June 2022. To serve as Chief of Navy has been a great privilege and I will treasure many fond memories of my service. I am buoyed by the future prospects for the Navy and, following my retirement, hope to continue to work in the Navy and the Nation's interests.

As I complete my tenure as Chief of Navy, I am very proud of the many achievements of the fine men and women who serve Our Navy with distinction, and of the steps we have taken to optimise the Fleet. I wish yourself, and your fellow Association members the very best, as you progress the Association's future goals and your own endeavours. It has been my Honour to build and foster the strengthening bonds of naval fellowship between the Royal Australian Navy and the Naval Association of Australia.

Yours sincerely,


Mike Noonan, AO
Vice Admiral, Royal Australian Navy
Chief of Navy

6 July 2022

SERVICE

COURAGE

OUR VALUES
RESPECT

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

Defence Department silent on latest Chinese military encounter with Australian warship

ABC News. Exclusive by defence correspondent Andrew Greene 13 Jul 22

Defence has cited "operational security reasons" for not discussing an Australian warship's recent encounters with the Chinese military while sailing through international waters claimed by Beijing.

Military sources claim HMAS Parramatta has been closely tracked by the People's Liberation Army over recent weeks, including being followed by a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine, a warship and multiple aircraft.

"Formal challenges have occurred, such as telling us that we're entering 'China's territorial waters'," a Defence figure familiar with the interactions said.

"The most intense activity occurred as HMAS Parramatta was in the East China Sea," the official told the ABC, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to publicly discuss operations.

Since departing Australia in late May, the ANZAC-class frigate has travelled to Vietnam and South Korea and then on to Japan via the South China and East China Seas as part of a "regional presence deployment" which has included several joint military exercises with other navies.

According to the Australian embassy in Vietnam, HMAS Parramatta arrived in the port city of Da Nang on June 5, before departing the country over a week later bound for the Busan Naval Base in South Korea.

That trip took the ship through the South China Sea and then the East China Sea past Taiwan, which

include heavily militarised territory claimed by the Chinese.

During its passage, the ABC was told, HMAS Parramatta was closely tracked by Chinese military assets including a Type 052C "Luyang II" guided-missile destroyer and a Type 093-A "Shang II" nuclear-powered attack submarine.

On June 28, the Australian warship then arrived in the Port of Sasebo, in the Nagasaki prefecture, after completing naval exercises with Japan's Self-Defence Force.

Last week the ABC approached the Defence Department with a series of detailed questions about the Chinese military's interactions with HMAS Parramatta, but it declined to answer them.

"HMAS Parramatta is currently undertaking a regional presence deployment, conducting a number of navy-to-navy activities with Australia's regional partners and participating in various maritime exercises," a departmental spokesperson said.

"Regional deployments form part of Australia's longstanding contribution to an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific.

"For operational security reasons, Defence does not publicly disclose specific details of operations," the spokesperson added.

Defence Minister Richard Marles, who is visiting the United States, also declined to comment when asked by the ABC about the recent encounters.

"I won't go into details around that, other than to say that what our military does, what our navy, does in the South China Sea is routine," Mr Marles told the ABC from Washington DC.



Defence Department silent on latest Chinese military encounter with Australian warship

"It's been doing it for decades, and it is focused on asserting the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea: freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, the global rules-based order, which I've been describing as being so important for our national interest.

Asked whether the government may choose to later publicly disclose the incident as it has with previous encounters with the Chinese military, Mr Marles left open the possibility.

"That may happen in the future again, but what we are focused on first and foremost is doing the activity because that's in our national interest."

"And then obviously, in terms of the management of the information around that activity, we're focused on the safety of our servicemen and women."

Last week Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) announced it had "conducted a trilateral exercise with United States Ship Dewy and HMAS Parramatta in the East China Sea to East of Okinawa" between July 4 and 6.

"The Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force strengthens cooperation among JMSDF, US navy and Australian navy in order to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific," it said.

Earlier this year the Defence Department revealed a Chinese J-16 jet fighter had flown close to an RAAF P-8 maritime surveillance plane during a routine patrol in the South China Sea.

On Friday Foreign Minister Penny Wong met her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Bali, the first such face-to-face meeting at such a high level in almost three years.

Rough experience rendered safe by HMAS Childers

11 July 2022

Whilst alongside Norship Dockyard in Cairns, HMAS *Childers* rendered assistance to a civilian vessel named *Experience* which suffered an engine failure.

Childers crew members working on the upper decks noticed the civilian vessel rapidly drifting towards them and it appeared that the vessel was not operating normally.

Crew members on board *Childers* quickly alerted others nearby, acquired fenders and threw lines to the people on *Experience*.

The crew were able to prevent the vessel from colliding with *Childers*, bollards and other neighbouring vessels.

Mr Tom O'Donohue, owner of *Experience*, said they were caught in a 6 knot current and almost collided with the side of a SeaSwift barge nearby.

"The crew on board HMAS *Childers* realised our vessel was not operating, and subsequently made calls to throw a line," Mr O'Donohue said.

"A line was successfully secured to the bow and *Experience* was hauled to safety."

Childers' crew secured *Experience* alongside, offered medical assistance to the two men on board and contacted port authorities.

Commanding Officer of *Childers* Lieutenant

Commander Simone Paterson said she was pleased to be able to help.

"I am very pleased that *Childers* was able to render assistance to fellow mariners in need," Lieutenant Commander Paterson said.

The two mariners on board *Experience* said they were very grateful to *Childers*' crew members.

"As I am 90 years old and had my 70 year old friend assisting me, a collision coupled with the force of the current could have been disastrous," Mr O'Donohue said.

"Fortunately, the prompt action of the HMAS *Childers* crew mitigated this hazard and saved any damage to my vessel."

Childers was recently engaged in an extended maintenance period and had only entered the water within days of the incident.

By Leading Seaman Peta Binns

Yacht *Experience* after suffering an engine failure.

Photo: Supplied



STOCK & LAND

Victorian cattle saleyards have comprehensive standstill plans if FMD occurs

By [Philippe Perez](#)

Updated July 27 2022 at 8:09pm, first published 6:00pm

Ballarat saleyard managers say they are well prepared in the event of an incursion of foot and mouth disease in Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria have outlined that if an incursion were to happen a livestock standstill would take effect immediately.

Central Victorian Livestock Exchange (CVLX) Ballarat business unit manager Jeff Paull said the saleyards were well prepared and would stick strictly to a safety plan in place if an FMD outbreak occurred.

The safety plan was updated earlier this year and had "gone from a four page document to nearly 24 pages".

"I wanted to make sure our safety plan was something we could use and we just want it to be executable as well as possible," he said.

"We've always had a standstill plan, but it was more generic, but now things are site specific and catered to our needs."

Instructions in the updated plan include stopping the any sale immediately, making an announcement, securing the premises, and begin speaking with authorities straight.

On a non-sale day, CVLX Ballarat would additionally conduct a stocktake of all livestock on the premises.

Mr Paull said while there was some caution among local farmers, he did not think there was not a major sense of panic in the livestock sector regarding FMD.

"People are talking about it, and when there was that scare in Melbourne the other day, I did get a few phone calls, but I think most people are just being sensible," Mr Paull said.

"It would be devastating if we see it here in Victoria and certainly now is the time to be very aware."

He was satisfied with the messaging about FMD to the general public, but it was important there was a coordinated effort from authorities.

"I think Agriculture Victoria have been proactive, but the one thing I have noticed in the past week, is that there have been so many webinars from different organisations talking about this," he said



AT THE READY:

CVLX business unit manager Jeff Paull says there has been proactive discussions between his team and Agriculture Victoria if an incursion of FMD occurs in Victoria

"I think we could slightly be in danger of mixed messaging, but it's good that education is getting out there."

Western Victoria Livestock Exchange Mortlake saleyard manager Colin Ryan also said there was a standstill plan ready in their region.

"We are even working with transporters who may have livestock in transit from our yards to bring them back here in the event of an incursion," he said.

"We are all in this together, and I think the most important part is to at least house that cattle."

He said a biodiversity plan was also in place for his yard, and the industry in general was concerned.

In a webinar earlier this month, Agriculture Victoria outlined they are working with saleyards across the state to keep livestock at saleyards with visitors permitted to move off, recommending deep cleans

Any trucks or utes with livestock will either head to their destination or return to where they came back from, dependent on animal welfare considerations or state border restrictions.

Footnote.

This may appear to be an obscure article for the Bosun's Call, but until recently Jeff Paull was the Commanding Officer of the Australian Naval Cadet unit TS VOYAGER located in Williamstown Victoria. As the CO he hosted several NAA National Council and National Executive meetings. Just goes to show what naval training can do for you.



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Driving into the future –

a guide to electric vehicles

Transport currently makes up 60% of total carbon emissions in the ACT, making it the biggest hurdle to achieving our goal of net zero emissions by 2045. This is due to our reliance on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. With the ACT now being powered by 100% renewable electricity, purchasing an electric vehicle (EV) will eliminate your transport emissions and help achieve net zero for our city. This guide provides information on EVs and charging considerations.

Understanding electric vehicles

EVs use a battery and electric motor to achieve movement. An electric motor is much smaller than an ICE and does not require the use of a transmission, allowing greater interior space and mechanical simplicity. Electric motors provide maximum torque (force or 'pulling power') from 0 RPM (revs per minute) and delivers power smoothly. This means that when you accelerate, you won't experience any delays or jerkiness due to the instant power delivery.

Energy for the motor is stored in a battery installed under the passenger compartment between the front and rear wheels. This battery placement allows EVs to maintain a very low centre of gravity, reducing the risk of a rollover by improving vehicle stability and handling when driving. This helps EVs to remain flat and stable during cornering, ensuring safer driving in all conditions.

EVs use batteries with very high energy density that can be rapidly recharged, either on a standard wall socket like any other electric device or one of the many thousands of public chargers around Australia.

Why should I purchase an electric vehicle?

EVs have many benefits including health and safety, performance, cost of ownership and reliability. These advantages apply for EVs whether you need a safe and practical family car or are after a high-performance car.

Safety: EVs optimise their design for safety, with larger crumple zones any crash impact is less dangerous to the occupants compared to an ICE vehicle. EVs low centre of gravity due to the battery location under the floor helps reduce rollover risk.

Health: EVs do not pollute the air when operating because they do not burn petrol or diesel. This is beneficial for our health as the exhaust build-up from an ICE in enclosed spaces or when idling can be hazardous.

Performance: EVs can accelerate more rapidly than comparable ICE vehicles, ensuring an exciting driving experience with adequate power for overtaking and country driving. From a practical and safety perspective this is helpful as it reduces the time needed to get up to speed on roads and limits overtaking time. For motoring enthusiasts, EVs offer greater acceleration and smooth power delivery, along with excellent handling due to their low centre of gravity and instant torque.

Regenerative braking: An EV can take advantage of regenerative braking, where the electric motor generates energy during braking. This charges the battery instead of wearing down brakes, improving efficiency and reducing brake servicing costs. A bonus if you are doing a lot of stop-start city driving.

Space: As the battery pack in an EV is stored neatly under the floor and electric motors take up very little space. There is generally more interior space on offer than a comparable ICE vehicle, including more front and rear legroom for taller passengers.

Refinement: Internal combustion engines are loud and create vibrations that are sent through the body of a car, reducing comfort for occupants. An electric motor is vibration free and operates in near silence, which provides a more comfortable and luxurious driving experience.

Reliability: There is very little that can go wrong in an EV and almost no susceptibility to drivetrain failure due to the robust nature of batteries and electric motors. EVs also have less servicing requirements, making them cheaper to maintain than an ICE vehicle.

Running costs: An ICE car consuming 10L/100km of petrol at \$1.50/L would cost \$15 per 100km, while an average EV charged with electricity at 26c/kWh would only cost around \$4 per 100km when charged at home. This cost can be much less if charging with off peak electricity or using solar panels. EVs also have very limited servicing requirements, typically only requiring annual safety and functionality checks. This can represent a cost saving of \$500 - \$1,000 per year for the life of the vehicle.

Emissions free: The ACT electricity grid is powered by 100% renewable electricity, so EVs are always emission free when charged in the ACT. Interstate travel may not always be emission free due to gas and coal in the national energy mix but will still have lower emissions than driving an ICE vehicle. Some public EV chargers in other states are powered from 100% renewable energy.



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Choosing the right EV

There is a wide variety of new and used EV models currently available in Australia including SUVs, sedans, and hatchbacks, with most reasonably priced EVs achieving ranges of at least 300km on a full battery. There is a variety of EVs ranging in size to satisfy buyers regardless of whether you prioritise range, safety, practicality, or performance. For enthusiasts, there are several EV options offering very high levels of performance, usually for much lower prices than their ICE counterparts.

When it comes to buying an EV in the ACT, you can benefit from the stamp duty waiver and free registration, for more information go to the Zero Emissions Vehicles web page.

Charging and battery considerations

Most lithium-ion battery chemistries have an optimal charging range to maintain the health of the battery. An EV should not have its battery excessively depleted before waiting to charge, as running it all the way down to under 20% can cause more rapid degradation of the battery. Equally, batteries should also not be charged to more than 80% or 90% for daily usage (depending on model), as regular charging to 100% can prematurely degrade the battery and reduce useable range over time.

Rather than excessively depleting the battery by driving your EV all week and letting its battery drop down, simply plug it in each day when not in use and maintain the battery near or at its manufacturer's recommended daily charge limit. You can then limit the charge of the battery to 80% or 90% (depending on manufacturer's specifications) to prevent over-charging. The exception to this is LFP (lithium iron phosphate) batteries which use a different type of lithium-ion chemistry that allows them to be charged to 100% regularly.

Charging your EV at home

The biggest difference in owning an EV is they can be charged at home or at public chargers, which can provide greater flexibility in 'refuelling' and avoids the need to visit service stations at all. Home charging speed and cost is dependent on what charging infrastructure you will use. All new electric vehicles come with a portable charging cable that can simply be plugged into a standard household wall socket. For most people installing dedicated charging infrastructure won't be required.

A standard 10A wall socket will produce 2.4 kilowatts (kW) of power and will take 15 – 30 hours to fully recharge an EV depending on battery size. A standard 10A wall socket will provide about 150km of range from 10 hours of overnight charging, so is

suitable for people not regularly driving long distances. If a higher charge rate is required, other options include a faster 15A wall socket or a dedicated EV charger. A 15A wall socket upgrade will cost around \$300 and outputs 3.6kW, enough for adding about 220km from an overnight charge. Both options are adequate for most Canberra drivers who travel an average 38km a day, while still being able to easily facilitate longer drives when needed, such as weekend getaways or road trips.

If faster home charging is needed a dedicated EV charger can provide 7kW, enough to fully charge a standard EV in about 6 – 9 hours and allow for up to 500km of travel per day from an overnight charge. These chargers cost around \$2,000 - \$3,000 installed and are included as an eligible product under the Scheme. While a standard 10A or 15A socket is adequate for most daily driving needs, a 7kW dedicated EV charger upgrade is beneficial if you regularly drive long distances or have an EV with a large battery capacity. People living in apartments will need to seek permission from their body corporate to install a dedicated EV charger or utilise car park power points for charging.

Going further using public chargers

For long distance driving or where home charging is not possible there are over 2,500 public charging stations across Australia found on the PlugShare website. Most of these output between 7-22kW and many are often free or very cheap to use. When quicker charging is required, there is a growing number of fast chargers providing charge rates of 50kW – 350kW, enough to fully charge most EVs in 30 – 60 minutes. Many of these charging stations are located along highways and major roads, allowing EVs to charge for short bursts each time you take a rest stop. Not all EVs can charge at the same rate, with some only supporting 50kW fast charging, so you will need to check the maximum charging rate of your potential EV with the manufacturer or dealership.

The final consideration for charging is the type of charging plug you will need, which can vary between makes and models. The plug types used today are typically CCS, CHAdeMO and Type 2. Although you will be provided with a cable for home charging, you may need an adapter or cable for some types of public chargers, especially some public destination chargers. Depending on your model of EV there may also be restrictions on which type of fast chargers are compatible.

How to apply for a loan under the Sustainable Household Scheme

Firstly, check you are eligible to participate in the Scheme by reviewing the Scheme Guidelines. It's also a good idea to review the Scheme terms and

Sustainable Household Scheme



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conditions. If you've decided an electric vehicle is right for you, just follow these easy steps to apply for your zero-interest loan:

- > Use the Brighte marketplace to see the accredited vendors that you can purchase an EV from. This includes all participating ACT dealerships and online sellers and covers all EV models currently available in Australia.
- > Select several vendors that sell EVs you are interested in and request a quote or call back regarding your EV options.
- > You can also visit participating dealerships directly and simply ask about the Sustainable Household Scheme interest free loans for EVs.
- > Once you have selected an EV to purchase, the dealership can arrange the finance application with Brighte on your behalf or you can apply directly with Brighte. Brighte will then contact you to go through the loan application process.

Some important things to note

- > You must select an EV under the luxury car tax threshold (LCT) for fuel efficient vehicles,

this figure is adjusted each financial year and can be found on the ATO website.

- > Dedicated EV charging equipment can be included in the \$15,000 loan.
- > Any requirements to upgrade to 3-phase power can be included as part of your loan, this may be required for EV chargers with outputs above 7kW.
- > Only battery electric vehicles are included, plug-in hybrids (PHEV) vehicles are not eligible for an interest free loan
- > Only one loan can be provided to each household, so you cannot access another loan for an EV if you have already used \$15,000 for other products under the scheme.

Need some free advice?

Contact our team for general and free energy advice on

1300 141 777 or

actsmartadvice@act.gov.au

Beware of scams

22 July 2022

DVA is warning veterans to be cautious of potential scammers operating online.

We would like to remind veterans and their families to be vigilant and protect themselves from any incident that may compromise their private or personal information.

If you are a veteran, or know someone who is a veteran, please pass on the following tips:

- If you receive a phone call or letter asking for your DVA client number or banking details, do not provide them. Contact your nearest [DVA office](#) to confirm the request is legitimate.
- Be cautious if you are contacted out of the blue by someone claiming to be from **any** government department requesting personal information. Always contact the organisation before responding, using contact details from a trusted source.
- Never give personal details to someone you do not know and trust.
- Never provide information such as passwords, tax file numbers or bank account details via email links.

- Do not open suspicious texts or click on links or attachments in emails received from unknown or unexpected sources.
- If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.
- If you think you have provided your DVA number to a scammer, contact the nearest [DVA office](#).

If you, or someone you know, has been approached by someone posing as a DVA representative please contact your nearest DVA office.

If you have shared personal information and believe you may be at risk, you can contact IDCARE, a not-for-profit organisation that provides assistance and support to victims of identity theft and other cybercrime. Visit idcare.org or telephone 1800 595 160.

For additional information about scams, visit scam-watch.gov.au – you can also subscribe to a free alert service to receive updates about the latest scams.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre also provides advice for individuals, a free [alert service](#) to help you understand the latest online threats and the ability to report online crimes via the [Report-Cyber page](#).

DVA Motor Vehicle Compensation Scheme

Last updated:

24 March 2022

If you have an accepted service-related injury or illness that limits your mobility, we may help with the cost of modifying a vehicle to suit your needs.

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Who can receive it

You may be eligible for MVCS if you:

- are impaired because of an injury or condition accepted under the [Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 \(MRCA\)](#)
- clinically assessed as unable to drive or be driven safely or comfortably in an unmodified vehicle; and
- would benefit from using the vehicle at least twice a week

If your injury or condition has been accepted under the [Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 \(VEA\)](#), please visit the [Vehicle Assistance Scheme](#) instead.

What you can receive

If you're eligible, we may be able to pay part of or the total cost of:

- modifications to an existing vehicle; or
- a modified vehicle to suit your needs, if you have complex conditions which significantly impact your ability to drive safely and in reasonable comfort.

We may also partly or entirely pay for:

- repairs and maintenance for vehicle modifications
- any extra insurance cost related to the modifications; and
- a replacement vehicle once your current one is 5 years old, or has driven 100,000km, and your current vehicle is no longer safe or suitable.

How you claim

There are a few ways you can request assistance from MVCS.

You can:

- fill out a [compensation form](#), and tick the box for 'Vehicle modifications' in Part F

- send us a letter requesting compensation under MVCS
- let your [needs assessor](#) know that you'd like vehicle modifications
- talk to your rehabilitation assessor about trouble you're having with driving; or
- [contact us](#) directly

If you want to claim through a compensation form, you'll need to follow all instructions on the form, and provide your [identity documents](#).

Mail your compensation form or letter (and a certified copy of any required identity documents) to:

GPO Box 9998, BRISBANE QLD 4001

If you're eligible, we'll ask a Driver Trained Occupational Therapist (OT) to assess your needs and find out what modifications you might need. Your OT will also teach you (or your preferred driver) how to use your modified vehicle safely.

Things you should know

- If you live in residential care and aren't able to leave, we can't provide you with assistance under MVCS.
- If we help you buy a vehicle, you'll need to register, insure it comprehensively for its full value, and maintain it.
- You will need to discuss any transactions you wish to make involving your modified vehicle with us as this may affect your entitlement.
- If you disagree with a decision we've made under MVCS, you can ask us to review your claim. The review will be undertaken by the Commission following a request in writing from you within three months of the decision. Your request must provide reasons why you consider the decision is incorrect. If you're unhappy with the outcome of the review, you may seek review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

What to tell us

If anything changes that could affect your entitlements, you need to let us know within 14 days (or 28 days if you receive the [Remote Area Allowance](#) or live overseas).

You need to tell us if you:

- are planning to move into residential care
- intend to sell, give away or dispose of your vehicle
- intend to use your vehicle as security for a loan; or

DVA Vehicle Assistance Scheme

Last updated:

10 May 2022

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What is the Vehicle Assistance Scheme (VAS)

Help with a car and car costs if a service-related injury (accepted under the [Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 \(VEA\)](#)) has severely reduced your mobility.

The help can be financial assistance towards:

- the purchase or replacement of a car; and
- vehicle modifications, driving devices; and
- running and maintenance costs for the vehicle provided under the scheme.

Who can receive it

You may be able to receive help under the Scheme if your accepted service-related injury or disease is:

- both legs amputated above the knee; or
- one leg amputated above the knee and the other leg amputated at or above the ankle and one arm amputated at or about the wrist; or
- one leg amputated above the knee and both arms amputated at or above the wrists; or
- complete paraplegia; or
- a service-related injury or disease that is similar in effect to the first three conditions described above, and

We are able to establish that you:

- will benefit directly from use of the vehicle; and
- can be transported regularly in safety and reasonable comfort.

You don't have to be the driver of the vehicle.

Financial assistance amounts

Financial help is an amount paid directly to the supplier for an appropriate initial vehicle or replacement vehicle of:

- up to \$39,810 towards the cost of a new car;
- up to \$19,905 towards the cost of a replacement car after two years. This is in addition to the trade-in or market value sale of your current VAS vehicle.

Further financial help may be given towards that car for:

- modifications and driving devices; and
- running and maintenance, such as registration and insurance costs.

The running and maintenance allowance is paid annually and is currently \$2,493.40.

How you claim for a vehicle or vehicle modifications under the VAS

- Complete the [Application for Vehicle Assistance Scheme](#), carefully following instructions for any additional documentation that may need to be attached.
- Send your application with supporting documents by:
 - email
to: compensation.claims@dva.gov.au; or
 - post to: GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001
- We may arrange a driver-trained occupational therapist to undertake an assessment. This assessment allows the therapist to identify the most suitable vehicle for your needs. If you already have a driver-trained occupational therapist, please include their details in your claim form. We will advise you if an assessment is required and will assist to arrange this.
- We will assess your application and let you know of your outcome in writing. If approved, we will explain the next step to you.

How you claim for the running and maintenance cost of a VAS car

- Each year, complete the running and maintenance section on the [Application for Vehicle Assistance Scheme](#) carefully following instructions for any additional documentation that may need to be attached.
- Send your application with supporting documents by:
 - email
to: compensation.claims@dva.gov.au; or
 - post to: GPO Box 9998, Brisbane QLD 4001
- We will assess your application and let you know in writing of the outcome.

(Continued on page 12)

Assistance Dogs

What is an assistance dog

An assistance dog falls within the definition of 'assistance animal' in section 9 of the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#). It also meets the standards set out by Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

These dogs:

- are individually trained in obedience
- can perform at least 3 defined tasks that ease your impairment
- can pass a Public Access Test (PAT).

PAT is the minimum standard an assistance dog must meet to be considered safe and effective in accessing public places and public passenger vehicles.

What types do we offer

We offer 4 types of assistance dogs. These dogs are individually trained to perform work or tasks directly related to your disability and they must be prescribed by your treating health provider. DVA contracted dog suppliers will not train a client's dog under the DVA Program.

Guide dogs

If you are blind or visually impaired, guide dogs help you live independently. They are trained to travel on public transport and support you in public settings.

Hearing dogs

These dogs help you by alerting you to sounds, such as alarm clocks, kitchen timers, smoke and fire alarms, the presence of other people and approaching vehicles. If you are deaf, hearing dogs

are trained to make physical contact and lead you to the source of the sound.

Mobility dogs

This type of dog helps you with mobility impairment to achieve independence in and around the home. They also help you participate in society. They perform tasks such as opening and closing doors, retrieving items and activating switches.

Mobility dogs do not replace a carer but may reduce caring needs significantly.

Psychiatric assistance dogs

These dogs are trained to perform tasks to help you achieve your clinical recovery goals. This includes detecting signs of distress and performing tasks to help alleviate the symptoms.

Read more about our [Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program](#) and how to apply.

How we decide if you are eligible

To determine if you are eligible, your health professional should refer to the [RAP National Guidelines - Assistance Dogs](#)

If your health professional believes you are suitable for an assistance dog, they will need to complete the assistance dog application form.

You are a serving member

As an ADF member, your health treatment should generally be provided under the ADF's health care arrangements.

Before you submit an application to us, you should discuss your need for an assistance dog with your treating health provider and the ADF. For us to consider your application, you must provide written approval from the Chief of Defence Force or an appropriate delegate.

You are a discharging member

If you are transitioning from the ADF, you can start the assistance dog application process before discharging. Your treating health provider can help you with your application, which must include evidence of your ADF approved discharge date.

If you plan to relocate after discharging, you may like to consider waiting to submit your application. This way, the application process will consider your new living arrangements and support network which may be better suited to an assistance dog.

What type of accommodation is suitable

If you live in an aged care home, retirement village or lifestyle park, you will need to provide a letter from the property owner or manager with their agreement to you having the assistance dog at the property. Your health professional must include this letter along with the request form. You will also need to make sure there is an appropriate space for the dog to toilet and exercise.

If you rent your home or live in an apartment or unit, you may be required to tell your property manager of your intentions.

We have provided a [template letter](#) for you to use.

DVA Vehicle Assistance Scheme

(Continued from page 11)

Things you should know

- It is not necessary for you to be able to drive. If you have a partner or carer who will regularly drive you in the vehicle, we will consider your application.
- If you get the [Recreation Transport Allowance](#) from us or the [Mobility Allowance](#) from Centrelink, you cannot receive this help.
- If you could pursue a claim under any other scheme of compensation under any Territory, State, or Commonwealth law, you cannot receive this help.
- You cannot claim for the Running and Maintenance Allowance or for vehicle modifications without having been granted a vehicle under the Scheme.
- Do not sign any contract for a car until we confirm your eligibility. The driver-trained occupational therapist will assist you to find the most suitable vehicle and to obtain quotes for the selected model.

Assistance dogs and public places: be informed

26 July 2022

It is important for veterans with a DVA assistance dog to be aware of their rights around legally accessing public places with their accredited assistance dog, particularly when using public transport such as buses, trains, taxis and airlines.

If you have an accredited DVA assistance dog, you and your dog are legally allowed to enter all public places, including travelling on public transport and entering hospitality venues such as cafes and restaurants. There are some exceptions, including:

- Where your assistance animal has an infectious disease and denying you access is reasonably necessary to protect public health or other animals,
- Where allowing you access would impose an 'unjustifiable hardship', such as where access would cause major difficulties or unreasonable costs,
- Where the operator or pilot in command of a flight reasonably believes that the assistance animal may have an adverse effect on the safety of the flight.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) outlines the rights of those with assistance animals for individuals with disabilities, including mental health conditions.

While there is currently no national standard within

Australia to identify accredited assistance dogs, it is unlawful to deny entry of an assistance dog and there are a few things you can do if you are refused access to a public space or transport, including:

- Telling the operator that your dog is a working accredited assistance dog
- Showing your handler ID card
- Ensuring your dog is wearing its assistance dog coat
- Telling the operator that you are legally allowed to access the service with your assistance dog under your relevant state legislation or the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth).

You may also wish to report the incident to the venue or transport provider or make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Commission has the power to investigate and attempt to conciliate complaints of discrimination under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. More information is available here: [Complaints | Australian Human Rights Commission](#).

DVA provides four types of assistance dogs to help veterans in need, including psychiatric assistance dogs, guide dogs, hearing dogs and mobility dogs.

For more information on assistance dogs from DVA visit the [DVA website](#).

COVID-19 updates for veterans

22 July 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities, with another record wave predicted for August 2022. With health advice changing often, the below is a summary of some of the key changes and updates veterans and families should be aware of.

Free Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) program ending

The Federal Government's free RATs for Veteran Card holders program ends 31 July 2022. From this date, Veteran Card holders will no longer be able to access free RATs from participating pharmacies. Your local state or territory health department may have more information on how you can access free RATs through locally run programs

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment extended

If you can't work or have lost income due to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, you may be eligible for the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment which has been extended to 30 September 2022. More on this payment can be found at the [Services Australia website](#).

Vaccines

To minimise the risk of contracting COVID-19, re-

member to stay up to date with your vaccinations and get any boosters that are recommended.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines, and how to book your booster dose, visit the [Department of Health website](#). For other queries and concerns, please be sure to speak to your GP.

Social distancing and getting tested

With the rise in COVID-19 cases, it is important that you continue to protect yourself by following safety measures such as social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing or sanitising your hands often.

If you aren't feeling well and are showing COVID-19 symptoms, remember to get tested and continue to follow isolation requirements if your test is positive, or if you are a close contact of a positive case. If you are at high risk for severe disease contact your GP as soon as possible to see if you can take anti-viral medications.

For more information about COVID-19 pandemic, how to protect yourself and your family, vaccinations and updates, please visit the [Department of Health website](#) or the Coronavirus helpline on 1800 020 080 open 24 hours, 7 days.

National Council Meeting Decisions – 22 June 2022
Held at Port Adelaide Sub-section
Group A – By –Law Amendments Decided at NCGroup C

Item	Motion Description	Result
A-1	Proposed amendments to voting protocols for Election of Office Bearers – action for tied vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Executive Section Executive Section without Sub-sections Sub-sections 	Carried with the following amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Change See Note Call for 14 day period to consult all Sub-sections and then new vote. See Note No change See Note No change See Note
A-2	Restrict Access to NAA Official Social Media	Amended to move from NSW motion to all NAA approved social media. By Law 5.1 be created to manage social media sites reflecting the views of any official part of the NAA. Carried
A-3	Motion to amend the NAA Ode Package by the optional use of the NAA Ode to the Naval Veteran	Carried The Council approved the introduction of 3 options to be used for commemorative events and funerals as requested by Families or Naval Groups. Choice will be offered and particular selection is not mandated
A-4	Motion to Introduce NAA Report of Proceedings	National Council agrees to adopt the concept of the Navy's Report of Proceedings as a chronology of what the NAA has done and what it has to address. Carried
A-6	Amendment to Life Subscriber Insurance Distribution	Carried that all interest received by the Life Subscriber account shall be kept in that account on behalf of all Life Subscribers and not allocated to any one member.
A-7	NAA Member Covenant	Carried that the NAA application form be amended to secure a pledge to undertake to adhere to the ideals of the Association, its rules and processes and will always strive to conduct myself in an honourable manner in respect of naval fellowship.

Group B

The following Motions were raised purely for discussion, as they must be officially tabled at the 2023 National AGM for voting after NAA wide consultation.

Item	Motion Description	Result
B-1	Recording of Verbal Communication (Annex A) amendment.	Endorsed to move forward by drafting rules.
B-2	Social Media and the NAA	Endorsed. Section 5 of the NAA Constitution be created to deal with digital and social media
B-3	NAA Mission, Vision and Core Objectives Statement	Endorsed for a draft proposal to be prepared and presented to Nov 2022 NC meeting in Sydney.
B-4	Reduction in Consideration Times for Constitution and By-law Changes	Endorsed for draft proposal to be prepared for Nov 2022 NC meeting.

Group C

General Motions raised for Voting at June 2022 NC meeting

Summary provided by National Secretary – Minutes of the NC Meeting are awaiting final review and amendment prior to issuing to State Sections.

Item	Motion Description	Result
C-1	Qld Section requested that the NX applies to the RAN to have the NAA included in the Navy People Wellbeing Program, including the Navy websites.	Carried

Russell Pettis
National Secretary

29 July 2022

Note:

Whilst there was no change to all except Section Executive elections at Group A Item A-1, the amendment stipulated that in all cases there has been a slight change in that candidates are not to solicit votes.

The following additional approvals were made by the National Council at its 2022 Annual General Meeting

AGM Motion 11 a—Fees and Subscriptions for 2023

The National Council approved that Subscription and joining fees for 2023 remain as follows:

Full membership to remain at \$38.00 and be distributed as follows:

National Council	\$17.00
Section	\$10.00
Sub-section	\$11.00

Couple membership to remain at \$55.00 and be distributed as follows:

National Council	\$ 25.00
Section	\$ 15.00
Sub-section	\$ 15.00

The joining fee to remain at \$5.00 per applicant.

AGM Motion 11 d—Appointments

The National Council approved the following honorary appointments be made:

Public Officer	Peter Cooke Russell
Honorary Counsel	CMDR Dominic Katter QC RAN
Honorary Solicitor	CMDR Neville Wyatts RAN

Financial Accounts Signatures:

National President, National Treasurer, National Secretary – two to sign. National Treasurer must be one of the two unless the payment is to the Treasurer.

In the absence of a nomination:

Honorary Auditor	An auditor to be appointed at an appropriate fee. The National Treasurer to explore opportunities.
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Get treatment while you wait on a claim (PAMT)

Provisional Access to Medical Treatment extended for two more years

5 August 2022

The Australian Government has today committed \$33 million to extend access to free medical treatment for veterans.

The free Provisional Access to Medical Treatment program provides access to medical treatment for 20 of the most commonly claimed conditions to veterans who have lodged a claim with DVA.

"We know veterans waiting for claims to be processed need support — this is a challenging time and dealing with a medical condition can make it even more stressful," Minister Keogh said.

"This funding will ensure veterans can continue to access medical treatment for their condition while they wait for their claims to be processed. Ensuring veterans have access to their treatment earlier can make a big difference to their recovery.

"The Government is committed to a better future for veterans and this program will provide them with access to medical treatment when they need it," Minister Keogh said.

To learn more about the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment program, visit the [DVA website](#).

Who is not eligible

You are not eligible if you submitted a claim under the [Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 \(VEA\)](#).

The conditions

PAMT enables you to access treatment for the following 20 most commonly accepted conditions while we assess your claim:

- achilles tendinopathy and bursitis
- chondromalacia patella
- cut, stab, abrasion and laceration
- dislocation
- fracture
- internal derangement of the knee
- intervertebral disc prolapse
- joint instability
- labral tear
- lumbar spondylosis
- non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin
- osteoarthritis
- plantar fasciitis
- rotator cuff syndrome
- sensorineural hearing loss
- shin splints
- solar keratosis
- sprain and strain

- thoracic spon
- tinnitus

Access to PAMT

Once you have submitted a claim under either or both the DRCA or the MRCA, we will write to you about the program and send you a 'Treatment confirmation' form. You must present the form to your GP, who will determine if your injury or illness is related to one or more of the conditions covered.

If it is, your GP will complete the form and send a copy to us. You will be given the original form for your own records.

You will then be able to access treatment under PAMT until:

- we either accept or decline your claim (make a determination)
- your application for reconsideration or re-view is finalised

31 December 2024 (the end of the program).

DVA CONTACTS

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)

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)