

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE ADF AND TRANSITION THROUGH DISCHARGE

#### Background

1. The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP, wish to initiate a review of mental health care in the ADF and transition to non-military life.

#### Purpose of the Review

2. The purpose of the review is to independently assess and benchmark, from both a mental health best practice and administrative perspective, the current models of mental health support in the ADF, and the mechanisms of transition of those medically discharged with a mental health condition from the ADF to DVA. The review is to consider the extent to which the mental health needs of serving, and transitioning ADF members are being met.

#### Structure of the Review

3. An eminent person will be appointed to conduct the review. That person will be supported by a joint secretariat of Defence and DVA officers and have the capacity to draw on appropriate experts as required. All costs will be met by Defence.

#### Timings

4. It is expected that the review will take approximately six months to complete with a report due to Ministers by 15 December 2008.

#### Issues for Consideration

5. The review should be cognisant of a number of election commitments already identified by the Government to address mental health issues. These include:

- (a) ADF mental health 'Lifecycle' package;
- (b) Applied Suicide Intervention and Skills Training Program (ASIST);
- (c) Independent inquiry into suicide in the ex-service community;
- (d) Make community mental health care ex-service friendly;
- (e) Through the Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health (ACPMH), develop psychological resilience initiatives for new recruits and improve screening and early intervention mental health checks; and the,
- (f) Study of barriers to veterans' social and occupational rehabilitation.

6. The review should take into account the work from the Inter-Departmental Working Group looking at rationalising the administrative burden for veterans dealing with multiple agencies and the transitional arrangements.

7. The review should draw on investigations into individual suicides, including Boards/Commissions of Inquiry, to examine the recommendations, the subsequent responses and action taken.

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8. The specific tasks of the review are to:
- (a) Compile a stocktake of the full range of mental health programs across the ADF and DVA;
  - (b) Establish what the linkages are between the various mental health programs by mapping them together;
  - (c) Provide advice on the effectiveness of the range of programmes in meeting these objectives;
  - (d) Provide advice on any impediments or blockages that may exist and that inhibit the implementation of programmes;
  - (e) Identify any gaps in the programs or duplication of the programs within or between Defence and DVA. This gap analysis should focus on the lifecycle of the member inclusive of ADF service, transition to civilian life and subsequent civilian employment;
  - (f) Provide advice and recommendations on any programme deficiencies on any identified gaps or duplication in the mental health programs and transition arrangements; and
  - (g) Provide advice on the processes of managing an individual throughout and beyond the transition period including giving consideration to boundaries of responsibility.

### ADF/DVA Governance Board

9. It is proposed that a joint ADF/DVA governance board be set up to oversight the review and provide advice to SECDEF, CDF and SECDVA on the progress of the review. The proposed members of the Board are:
- Mr Martin Bowles, Head Defence Support Group
  - LTGEN Ken Gillespie, Vice Chief of the Defence Force
  - Mr Ed Killesteyn, Deputy President, Repatriation Commission
  - MAJGEN Paul Alexander, Head Defence Health Services
  - Mr Barry Telford, General Manager, Program and Development Division, DVA