



Australian Government

Defence

RCDVS Implementation Program Board Update

Date: 10 October 2024

The inaugural RCDVS Defence Implementation Program Board (the Board) met on 10 October 2024 to establish the Program and governance arrangements for recommendation implementation.

The Board discussed the purpose of the Program – to reduce suicide and suicidality, and the importance of this when implementing individual recommendations. Implementation plans (to be known as Reform Management Plans [RMPs]) would outline the recommendation approach and also consider the systemic issues and how to solve them within Defence to achieve the best outcomes for ADF members and their families.

Program Board Outcomes

Program Board Charter

The Board requested amendments to the Program Board Charter regarding membership, resource allocation and identification paper sponsors.

The Board requested the updated Charter be considered out of session.

Program Approach

The Board endorsed the use of the thematic approach per the RCDVS Final Report and its use for the Program design activities. Defence would group recommendations into six themes, taken from the RCDVS Final Report:

- Serving the Nation
- Misconduct, complaints and military justice
- Governance and accountability
- Health care for serving and ex-serving members
- Transition and support for ex-serving members
- Matters of importance to the whole Defence and veteran ecosystem

Implementation of Recommendations

The Board discussed prioritisation of the first RMPs. It was agreed those recommendations that relate to sexual misconduct would be prioritised for Board consideration.

The Board discussed work already underway within Defence that related to recommendations. It was agreed that it is important to understand work already occurring in Defence before commencing new projects.

The Board emphasised the importance of RMPs outlining how implementation activities would reduce suicidality. The need for benefits and performance measures was also discussed.

The Board discussed the management of joint recommendations such as with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, who would be a permanent member of the Board.

The Board empowered members to continue or commence planned reform activities within their remit in order to see change in the organisation.

The Board requested further details be provided on work underway in Defence, and a master implementation schedule be provided to the next Board.

Response to the Final Report

The Board discussed the Government Response to the Final Report to be delivered by the end of 2025 which would include positions on each recommendation.