



Australian Government

Defence

RCDVS Implementation Program Board Update

Date: 27 November 2024

The RCDVS Implementation Program Board (the Board) met on 27 November 2024 to discuss the progress of the RCDVS Implementation Program and consider a number of items.

Program Board Outcomes

Strategic Direction: Program Vision and Mission

The Board discussed the importance of a strong vision and mission statement.

The Board considered and agreed on the Program Vision: to ensure all Defence personnel both understand and actively seek to meaningfully address the factors that lead to suicide and suicidality in the defence and veteran community. Feedback was provided on the Mission statement and the Board requested this be updated and provided for consideration out of session on 14 January 2025.

Program Governance Framework

The Board discussed the importance of establishing strong governance arrangements and noted the Department's Integrity Division had been engaged to review the governance framework to identify lessons for improvement.

The Board noted the draft Program Governance Framework was with Groups and Services for consultation and feedback. The Board agreed to consider the final Program Governance Framework once all feedback had been incorporated, at the Board on 20 February 2025.

Program Implementation: Responsible Officers

The Board discussed the need for single accountabilities and responsibilities for recommendation implementation, acknowledging this may be a complex task for some recommendations.

The Board endorsed that, where possible, a sole Responsible Officer, or a lead if multiple are required, should be identified for each recommendation.

Sequencing and proposed Forward Work Plan

The Board discussed the proactive approach needed to planning and sequencing reform activities. Early engagement with oversight bodies on Defence implementation priorities was highlighted and Board members shared examples of work that is well advanced.

The Board discussed regular reporting on both progress and performance and the need to communicate progress to ensure transparency. The Board discussed timeframes to consider Reform Management Plan (RMP) and future Program Board dates.

The Board requested a forward work plan detailing the prioritisation of RMPs be provided out of session by 12 December 2025.

Government Response update

The Board received an update on the Government Response. It was noted that Defence and DVA would ensure a consistent approach to their communication following the release of the Government Response.

Other business

The Board discussed the need to implement recommendations in a timely way.

The Board discussed the use of the Managing Successful Programs (MSP) methodology to underpin program governance. The Board noted the need for member training on this methodology to ensure shared understanding.

The Defence RCDVS Implementation Taskforce indicated they will provide access to multi-disciplinary project teams to support development of RMPs and implementing recommendations.

The Board requested the Program Management Office develop a MSP education session, and further engage with stakeholders on external reporting and internal metrics.