



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

## Veteran Payment – Information for Advocates

From 1 May 2018, the new Veteran Payment will provide interim financial support to eligible veterans who have lodged a claim for a mental health condition under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) or the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA).

### What are the eligibility requirements?

Veteran Payment is available to those who have one or more outstanding liability claims under the MRCA or DRCA for a mental health condition(s). They must be unable to work for eight or more hours per week, be below Age Pension age and meet Australian residency requirements.

As the Veteran Payment is means tested, a person must also be below income and asset test thresholds. As with most income support payments, the family home is not included in any assets test calculation.

It is a condition of receiving Veteran Payment that the person participates in a DVA rehabilitation program, if they are capable of doing so. This is to encourage veterans to take advantage of early access to vocational and psychosocial rehabilitation, including financial counselling and budgeting, to help them return to a full and healthy life.

Partners may be eligible for Veteran Payment if the veteran is also receiving it.

### What is the rate of payment?

The Veteran Payment is paid fortnightly. The rate of payment depends on the person's income and assets.

The maximum rate as of 1 May 2018 is \$981.30 per fortnight for single persons and \$764.30 (each) per fortnight for members of a couple.

### What is the duration of the Veteran Payment?

Veteran Payment eligibility can commence up to two weeks prior to the date of lodgement of the claim, and continue up to six weeks (42 days) following the primary determination of the liability claim. Veteran Payment will cease if the person becomes eligible for incapacity payments, even if this occurs prior to the expiration of the six week period.

In certain circumstances, payment may be extended beyond the six weeks. These circumstances may include claims where incapacity payment eligibility is yet to be determined, or where the mental health claim was not accepted and the decision is being appealed.

#### What if the liability claim is not successful?

If a liability claim for a mental health condition is not accepted, DVA will assist the person to transition from the Veteran Payment to a suitable income support payment from the Department of Human Services or back into the workforce through a rehabilitation plan.

If the person has other outstanding liability claims for mental health conditions, Veteran Payment will continue until these claims have also been resolved.

#### How to apply

A new section regarding Veteran Payment has been added to the form *Claim for Liability and/or Reassessment of Compensation (D2051)* and the *Claim for Rehabilitation and Compensation (D2020)*. This directs interested claimants to complete a *Veteran Payment Details (D9333)* form, which collects relevant financial information for DVA to assess the person's eligibility.

The online single claim form and My Service will be updated at a later date.

DVA is contacting veterans who have an outstanding liability claim for a mental health condition. Those who claim online following 1 May 2018, and prior to the change in the online single claim form and My Service, will also be contacted.

#### For more information:

DVA Factsheet IS189 - Veteran Payment Overview  
<https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-is189-veteran-payment-overview>

DVA Factsheet IS190 – How to access Veteran Payment  
<https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-is189-veteran-payment-overview>

DVA Factsheet IS30 – Pension rates, Limits and Allowances Summary  
<https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-is30-pension-rates-limits-and-allowances-summary>

Contact email for policy questions: [New.Initiatives@dva.gov.au](mailto:New.Initiatives@dva.gov.au)