



## The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel

### MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 1 February 2021

### BOOST IN SUPPORT FOR VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health providers, social workers and community nursing providers who provide vital services to our veteran community are set to receive a boost in funding from the Australian Government with an increase in fees from today.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Government committed \$94.3 million in the Budget to increase fees paid to mental health, social work and community nursing providers, and ensure continued high quality care for our veterans and their families.

"Maintaining competitive fees for these mental health and community support providers will enable better outcomes for our veterans and their families, and encourage providers to continue to offer services to support members of the veteran community through challenging times," Mr Chester said.

"It was crucial that the Government continues to deliver positive change to boost support for veterans' mental health and wellbeing, particularly as we navigate a global pandemic.

"This Government has invested in the veterans' affairs portfolio year-on-year and will continue to do so to ensure we are putting veterans and their families first, including by regularly examining the fees paid to providers for health services."

The \$94.3 million over four years to improve mental health outcomes and ensure high quality care for our older veterans and their families, and to better support their transition to civilian life by increasing fees paid to mental health, social work and community nursing providers.

"I would like to acknowledge the ongoing advocacy by ex-service organisations and peak bodies who work with us in partnership to ensure our veterans and their families have access to world-class care and support," Mr Chester said.

"For any veteran out there who may be struggling, I encourage you to reach out for help. Support is always available."

More information on mental health support available through DVA is available at [dva.gov.au](http://dva.gov.au).

For support, Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit [www.OpenArms.gov.au](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au)

**ENDS**

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