

PRO-FORMA REQUEST FOR COSTING AN ELECTION COMMITMENT¹

Name of policy	Veterans Package
Person requesting costing (Prime Minister/Leader of the Opposition/Leader of a minority party):	Prime Minister.
Date of public release of policy:	22 April 2022.
Link to the publicly released policy:	https://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2022/04/22/more-support-veterans-14-new-veteran-wellbeing-centres#lpa-central-content
Date of request to cost the policy:	2 May 2022.
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	<p>The Coalition will provide \$71.4 million over the forward estimates from 2022-23 for a Veterans Package, with funding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$38.1 million over three years to support the establishment of a National Veteran Volunteer Service program in partnership with Disaster Relief Australia to support increased engagement of veterans in disaster resilience, relief and recovery operations across Australia; ● \$15.0 million over two years for 3 additional Veterans Wellbeing Centres (up to \$5.0 million per Centre) to better connect veterans to health and other support and advocacy services; ● \$2.0 million over two years as a contribution to veteran-led mental health charity Swiss 8. This contribution will support Swiss 8 to continue to offer its health and wellbeing app free of charge to veterans; ● \$10.0 million over four years in further support for the Prime

¹ An electronic version of this pro-forma can be found at www.electioncostings.gov.au/templates.

	<p>Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program which provides funding for ex-service and community organisations to deliver tailored employment services to support veterans find meaningful employment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$2.6 million over three years to establish a pilot program to provide early intervention specialist child and adolescent mental health support for children of current and former ADF members, with a particular focus on children of Special Operations Command members and will be rolled out in three high- needs locations of Sydney, Perth and Brisbane. ● \$3.7 million over four years for a grants program to mark the private graves of veterans of the First World War who died post war and are at rest in Australian civil cemeteries. This proposal is based on the Unmarked Graves of First World War Veterans Pilot Program established by the Government in 2019.
<p>Intention of policy:</p>	<p>To support veterans, ADF members, and their families by improving and better tailoring the support and advocacy services available to them.</p>
<p>Certification that this, or a substantially similar costing request, has not been submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office:</p>	<p>This, or a substantially similar costing request, has not been submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office.</p>
<p>Description of policy <i>(note: where the request to cost a proposal differs from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request)</i></p> <p>What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:</p>	
<p>Is the policy part of a package?</p>	<p>Yes, part of the Veterans’ Package.</p>

<p><i>If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.</i></p>	
<p>Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?</p>	<p>Capped.</p>
<p>Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy?</p> <p><i>If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding of \$38.1m will be provided to Disaster Relief Australia, a not-for-profit registered charity, to support the establishment of a National Veteran Volunteer Service program. ● The Department of Veterans Affairs (Open Arms) will partner with a youth mental health provider, selected through a limited tender process, in order to procure the requisite highly specialist clinical skills in child and adolescent mental health to deliver counselling services as part of the \$2.6 million pilot program for early intervention for children of ADF members. Open Arms will provide training and support to the provider. ● Funding of \$2.0 million will be provided to charity Swiss 8 to support it to continue to offer its health and wellbeing app free of charge to veterans. ● Funding of \$15.0 million will be provided to ex-service and community organisations to deliver the Veteran Wellbeing Centres.
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?</p> <p><i>If yes, please provide details.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>

Description of policy (note: where the request to cost a proposal differs from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request)

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:

(continued)

<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? <i>If yes, which measure?</i></p>	<p>Builds on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019-20 MYEFO measure titled <i>Veterans' Wellbeing Centres</i> which provided \$30 million to establish six Veterans' Wellbeing Centres. • The 2019-20 Budget measure titled <i>Supporting Veterans</i> which provided \$16.2 million to boost the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program which provides grants to support veterans find meaningful employment.
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? Will funding/cost require indexation? <i>If yes, list factors used.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>What are the estimated costs each year? Are these provided on a cash or fiscal basis?</p>	<p>\$21.0 million in 2022-23 \$28.7 million in 2023-24 \$18.5 million in 2024-25 \$3.2 million in 2025-26.</p> <p>Cash basis.</p>
<p>Are the revenue and/or expense costs likely to be significantly different beyond the forward estimates period? <i>If yes, why?</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Has the policy been costed by a third party? <i>If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</i>	No.
What is the expected community impact of the policy? How many people or businesses will be affected by the policy? What is the likely take up? What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?	The proposal will have a positive benefit for veterans, ADF personnel and their families by provided them better access to support services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pilot program for early intervention for children of ADF members is expected to benefit approximately 43,800 children of current and former ADF members in three high-need locations (Sydney, Perth and Brisbane, covering the Holsworthy, Campbell and Gallipoli Barracks).
<i>Note: it will be up to the professional judgment of the relevant Secretary as to whether these assumptions are adopted in a Treasury or Finance costing of the policy.</i>	
Administration of policy	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?	The Department of Veterans Affairs.
Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing? <i>If no, will the Australian Government Entity be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy?</i> <i>If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).</i>	Departmental costs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.3 million over the forward estimates will be provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the marking of private graves of WWI veterans program. • \$0.4 million over the forward estimates will be provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the pilot program for early intervention for children of ADF members.
Intended date of implementation.	1 July 2022.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No.
Will the policy be ongoing or terminating*?	All measures are terminating with the exception of Marking of Private graves, which is an ongoing grants program.

<p>If terminating:</p> <p>What is the intended date of termination?</p> <p>Are there any transitional arrangements associated with the conclusion of the policy?</p>	<p>The proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● for three additional veterans wellbeing centres and the contribution to veteran-led mental health charity Swiss 8 will terminate on 30 June 2024; ● to establish a National Veteran Volunteer Service program in partnership with DRA and the proposal for a pilot program for early intervention for children of ADF members will terminate on 30 June 2025; ● to provide further support for the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program will terminate on 30 June 2026.
<p>List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?</p>	<p>No.</p>

* Ongoing policies continue indefinitely (until a decision is made to cease or alter the program). Terminating measures end on a date set out in the initial policy and a further decision is required to continue the program beyond this date.