Veteran and Family Wellbeing Agency

Veteran Employment Program

Veteran Employment Advisory Committee meeting – 28 October 2026

The Veteran Employment Advisory Committee (the Committee) met at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday 28 October 2026.

The Committee received an address from the Hon Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel.

The Committee considered a member submission on self-employment and business ownership as a proposed transition pathway for veterans and veteran families, including research commissioned by DVA on its contribution to veteran wellbeing. The Committee agreed to establish a working group on veteran and veteran family-owned businesses to develop advice on self-employment and business ownership as a possible transition pathway, improving access to information, support and data, and options for identifying veteran-owned suppliers in Commonwealth procurement.

Members agreed priorities for their 2027 work plan, including progressing the development of opportunities identified through the Working Groups on trades and regional and rural employment. Members also supported the addition of both a veteran and partner entrepreneur member on the Committee, following the introduction of a standalone category for partner entrepreneurs in this year's Prime Minister's Veteran Employment Awards.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the outgoing temporary members, Emily Pyke, Katie Maloney and John Rogers, for their valuable contributions throughout 2026. New temporary memberships will be appointed following the announcement of the winners of 'Best Regional Veteran Employment Initiative', 'Veteran Entrepreneur of the Year', Partner Entrepreneur of the Year' and 'Champion of Veteran Employment' at the Prime Minister's National Veteran Employment Awards ceremony on 28 October 2026. More information on the Awards can be found at www.veteransemployment.gov.au/awards.