

FEDERAL ELECTION 2022
VETERAN POLICIES COMPARISON LNP AND ALP

ISSUE	LNP	ALP
General Commitment	“The women and men who serve this nation in uniform make incredible sacrifices for our country and we are ensuring that we repay our debt to them by providing the support they, and their families, need”.	Values their sacrifices, Labor will ensure current and former defence personnel and their families receive exemplary support during and after their period of service.
Support Occupational health and safety regime.	Extending other programs supporting the health, wellbeing and mental health of our veterans.	Continue to support a modern, dedicated occupational health and safety regime for all personnel
Support military rehab and compensation scheme.	Continuing current programs and expanding where necessary.	Continue to support a fair military rehabilitation and compensation scheme.
Transition to civilian life	Continuing current programs and expanding where necessary.	Ensure the right level of economic, employment, and physical and mental health support to make a success of their post-service lives. Our post-service support will extend to the partners and family members of service personnel and provide adequate programs to assist them.
Welfare Support	Will also support our ADF personnel by allowing them the choice to contribute to their ADF Super even after they have transitioned to a new employer.	Labor acknowledges the challenges faced by veterans and their families and is committed to improving their lives. This includes the transition into civilian life, ready access to financial welfare and targeted

		support, the troubling rates of suicide and domestic and family violence as a result of post-service stress, and the role of Ex- Service Organisations within the welfare support space.
DVA - General	Commitment to ensuring the more than 320,000 veterans and their families are supported and respected. This includes: free lifetime mental health care for ADF personnel; immediate income support for those with mental health claims; psychiatric assistance dogs for veterans with PTSD; and the expansion of counselling support through Open Arms.	Labor is committed to ensuring the Department of Veterans Affairs is fit-for-purpose and responsive to the needs of veterans and their families, including through better engagement, streamlined claims processes and support services that are uncomplicated, timely and easily accessible.
Cutting Waiting Times by Boosting Department of Veterans' Affairs Staffing	\$22.8 million will fund 90 extra DVA staff to cut the backlog of unprocessed claims: followed by a further \$73.2 million for more staff and other measures to further improve the veteran claims processing system and reduce waiting times. This takes the total new spending to \$96 million with 145 new staff.	Labor will cut waiting times and the backlog of compensation claims by funding 500 staff at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to speed up claims processing. Labor will abolish the departmental staffing cap, which has stopped DVA from hiring more well-trained permanent staff to process claims faster.
Delivering Veteran Hubs	Currently, six centres (Hubs) provide wellbeing services to the needs of local veterans and their families, with expansion into South-East Queensland & Tasmania Additional funding in the 2022-23 Budget will	Roll out a network of 10 veteran hubs across Australia in areas with significant defence and veteran communities. The hubs will act as one-stop shops for local veteran services, including

	support the establishment of a further 10 centres.	health and mental health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection.
Defence Home Ownership	Continuation of existing programs.	Boost home ownership for defence personnel and veterans by expanding the eligibility criteria for the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS). This will improve access to home ownership for defence personnel earlier in their Defence careers and allow veterans to access the scheme any time after they have completed their service.
Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans Payment	No increase advised. Maintaining Incapacity Payments for Veterans Studying as part of their DVA-funded return to work rehabilitation program at 100% of pre-injury earnings. This extends a four-year pilot that is supporting eligible veterans in full-time study by one additional year.	Introduce a \$1,000 permanent increase in the annual rate of the TPI Payment for eligible disabled veterans. This will help address the decline in the relative value of the payment over time and help TPI pensioners with cost of living pressures.
Veteran Employment Program	The Veterans' Employment Program has been expanded.	Labor will deliver a comprehensive veteran employment program to provide greater support to defence personnel as they transition to civilian life.

		We will help veterans into good quality jobs by doing more to boost recognition of their skills and experience, and provide support for further education and training for veterans wanting to move into the civilian workforce.
Defence and Veteran Family Engagement and Support Strategy	Open Arms and continuation of existing programs	We will deliver a defence and veteran family engagement and support strategy to provide greater support to our military families.
Veteran Homelessness Plan	Continuation of existing programs through https://www.openarms.gov.au/ , 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or Veterans' Access Network offices	More emergency housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund.
Disaster Relief Australia	Continuation of existing programs	Additional support for veteran-led disaster response organisation Disaster Relief Australia, almost doubling its ranks of veteran volunteers to 13,600.
Military Superannuation	Support to ADF personnel by allowing them the choice to contribute to their ADF Super even after they have transitioned to a new employer. Implemented fairer indexation for military superannuants	
Financial Counselling	A \$2 million injection will support the work of Bravery Trust in providing financial	

	counselling to serving & ex-serving members of the ADF.	
Kookaburra Kids 'Defence Kids' program	The successful Kookaburra Kids 'Defence Kids' program is being expanded to more regional areas and the service will now be available to Defence and veteran families in Tasmania for the first time.	
Veterans' Home Care	Increase the fees paid to providers in the Veterans' Home Care program through a \$70.5 million funding investment, further improving support for 37,000 Australian veterans and their families.	

Supporting Notes:

1. [DVA Background Papers to the Royal Commission into Defence & Veteran Suicides](#)
[Department of Defence background paper \[PDF\]](#)
[Department of Veterans' Affairs background paper \[PDF\]](#)
[Department of Veterans' Affairs background paper - Annexures \[PDF\]](#)

2. Sources

The ALP's [Plan to Address the Veterans Crisis](#) is [here](#)

The Government's (LNP) Veterans policies are [here](#) and expanded in their Budget [here](#)



