



# Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC  
Special Minister of State

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VA043

## START THE JOURNEY BACK TO GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

A new YouTube video has been launched highlighting the help available to veterans from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, launched the 'Start the journey back to good mental health' clip at the Victorian RSL Congress in Melbourne.

"From 1 July 2014, veterans with certain mental health and other conditions are able to access treatment for these conditions regardless of their cause and link to service. Importantly, no compensation claim is required in order to access these services", Senator Ronaldson said.

"DVA has, for many years, been able to pay for treatment for diagnosed posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depressive disorders for veterans and some personnel with peacetime service, without the need for the condition to be accepted as related to service."

"This arrangement has now been expanded to include treatment for diagnosed alcohol use disorder and substance use disorder. Eligibility has also been extended to include a greater number of members with peacetime service only."

"DVA will pay for treatment for these mental health conditions before, during, or after a compensation claim is made, or if a compensation claim is never made."

To help promote this new arrangement a new YouTube video has been produced and is now available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/DVAAus>.

"The key to good mental health is to take action early, I encourage you to let your members know about the new YouTube video and to contact DVA or to visit the DVA website if they would like to discuss their individual circumstances." Senator Ronaldson said.

"I encourage all veterans, and particularly veterans' advocates, to familiarise themselves with the new arrangements and seek help that is available when it is required.

For any further information on mental health support please contact DVA or visit the *At Ease* website at <http://at-ease.dva.gov.au>.

If you identify a member of the veteran and ex-serving community who you think may benefit from VVCS services, please encourage them to call **1800 011 046** to discuss their eligibility and support options.

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