



The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women Ltd
(Incorporated in the ACT)

TPI FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

“Disabled in our Service - United in our Cause”



Federation President's Report

Aug 2019

It is with great pleasure that I am able to advise that our new Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), has agreed to succeed General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC as the Patron for the TPI Federation of Australia. We thank the Governor General for his Patronage.

The election has been decided and I am pleased to report that we have retained our DVA Minister. Minister Darren Chester MP has been allocated the Veterans and Defence Personnel Ministry for the 46th Parliament. We do have a new Opposition DVA Minister. He is Shayne Neumann MP and hales from Ipswich, Qld.

The way that GPs refer DVA cardholders to Allied Health professionals is set to change from July 2019 following adjustments foreshadowed in the May 2018–19 Budget.

Under the new arrangements, which will be in place from 1 July 2019, GPs will only be able to make a referral to Allied Health services, at DVA's expense, for up to 12 sessions or one year, whichever comes sooner. This new arrangement will also apply to those clients with a chronic condition. Dental and optical services will still not need a GP referral.

The new arrangements will be called the 'treatment cycle'. The treatment cycle is designed to improve quality of care for DVA cardholders.

At the end of the treatment cycle, the Allied Health provider will report back to the GP who will assess whether further treatment is required. If it is needed, the GP may refer the client for a further treatment cycle at DVA's expense of up to 12 sessions, or may refer them to another provider if that better suits the patient's needs, or may consider another type of treatment.

As a result of an election promise that was made by both Liberal and Labor Parties, all TPIS will be exempt from this new provision. It is expected that representations will be made for EDAs to also become exempt.

Honouring Women United by Defence Service (HWUDS) will again be holding their dinner event. This year it will be on the 14th August 2019 at Parliament House. There are a limited number of tickets available and this year will be \$150 per person. You will need to get in quickly to obtain a ticket. Contact: Pat McCabe – 0417 291 546 – president@acttpi.org

The event will be again be preceded with the laying of wreaths by a number of women at the Last Post Ceremony of 14th August at the Australian War Memorial.

All events are open to all women who have served, or are serving, in the ADF, all female relatives of any serving or ex-serving member of the Defence Force of any era.

Finally, I revisit the hearing aid issue. The Veteran community seems to be slowly learning of their entitlements. Please pass this along to your Veteran and War Widow friends and families. They must know that they –
NEVER, NEVER, EVER – pay for their hearing aids.

DVA advises that there should never be a problem as there are just on 160 varieties of hearing aids that are available to the Veteran community. This is wonderful except for the detail that seems to be a huge hurdle for the Audiologists and, subsequently, for the Veteran. These 160 varieties are produced by a number of companies. Not all Audiologists deal with each of these companies. The companies they do deal with provide software for them to be able to fine-tune the hearing aids. Unfortunately, should you need one of the other hearing aids from one of the other companies then your Audiologist cannot order them for you as they would not have the software

to fine-tune them for you. At this stage we have a stalemate but we will continue to attempt to rectify this problem.

I am still meeting with DVA to try and sort this out for you but it is a huge problem. The easiest solution to this problem would be for DVA to honour their duty by providing the medical services that a Veteran need. If the Government, or Whole of Government, processes and procedures hinder this occurring, then DVA is obliged to find a solution. The Veteran is entitled to receive the best of medical care.

If you have any problems with obtaining fully subsidised hearing aids please contact me.



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11th August 2019