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**Government
of South Australia**

VETERANS' HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

2020-21 Annual Report

VETERANS' HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

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2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT for the Veterans' Health Advisory Council

To:

The Hon Stephen Wade MLC
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of (the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and the *Health Care Act 2008*) and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the VETERANS' HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL by:

Ilona Horan
Presiding Member

Date _____

Signature _____



From the Presiding Member

I was appointed by the Minister as Presiding Member of the Veterans' Health Advisory Council (VHAC) effective from 28th May 2021 to succeed Geoff Tattersall who retired from VHAC on 27th May 2021. Geoff was appointed to the VHAC in 2012 and was appointed as Presiding Member in July 2016. His contribution to the VHAC and the veteran community has been significant and on behalf of the VHAC I wish him well in his retirement.

The VHAC is comprised entirely of volunteers appointed by the Minister all of whom have relevant knowledge and experience in matters relating to veterans' health and wellbeing. It is supported by an Executive Officer who is employed by RSL Care SA on a part time basis which is funded through a service agreement with SA Health.

The VHAC's role is to advise the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the health service needs, priorities and issues for veterans and for the spouse, widow or widower of veterans and to advocate on their behalf with the Minister. The VHAC consults with ex-service and related organisations to obtain their views when preparing such advice.

Throughout 2020/21 the VHAC has played a significant role in the development of the Veterans' Wellbeing Centre in the Repat Health Precinct at Daw Park. Geoff Tattersall and I co-chaired the Veterans' Wellbeing Centre Steering Committee which endorsed a process to identify and select veteran service providers to be the 'anchor tenants' in the Centre. The Centre was officially opened by the Minister on Sunday 18th April 2021 and is now fully operational.

The Minister sought the VHAC's advice regarding commemorative naming of facilities within the Repat Health Precinct including within the Veterans' Wellbeing Centre. The VHAC consulted with the veteran community to identify notable individuals, who had a connection to the Repat, and who were suitable for commemoration. The number of veterans who were considered suitable far exceeded the number of facilities to be named. A sub-committee of the VHAC was formed to evaluate submissions and prepare a recommendation for the Minister which he endorsed.

In early 2021 the VHAC consulted with the veteran community to identify potential new members for the VHAC. Responses were considered by the VHAC and a

recommendation prepared for the Minister which was accepted resulting in six new members being appointed in May 2021.

As with most organisations, the VHAC's work during 2020-21 was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The most significant impact relates to the SA Health Framework for Veterans' Health care. This Framework expired in June 2020 and has yet to be updated. A priority for the VHAC in the coming year will be to work with SA Health to ensure the Framework is updated.

The following persons were members of VHAC during the 2020-21 year.

VHAC Nominations
Mr Geoff Tattersall (Retired 27/05/2021)
Ms Ilona Horan (Presiding Member)
Mr Nathan Klinge
Dr Chris Butcher
Professor Alexander McFarlane
Dr Paula Dabovich
Mr Bill Denny
CAPT Phoebe Sutherland (Appointed 28/05/2021)
Mr Brett Grosser (Appointed 28/05/2021)
Dr Adrian De Savi (Appointed 28/05/2021)
RSL Nomination
Mr Wayne Langford
Ministerial Nominations
Ms Dianne Fairhead (Retired 27/05/2021)
Dr Robert Black
Mr Tim Adey-Wakeling (Appointed 28/05/2021)
Mr Justin Brown (Appointed 28/05/2021)
Mr David West (Appointed 28/05/2021)

Ilona Horan

Presiding Member

Veterans' Health Advisory Council

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	<p>The Advisory Council is established in relation to Veterans and the spouse, widow or widower of Veterans to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advise on their health service needs, priorities and issues; 2. Advise on the delivery of health services; 3. Advocate on their behalf with the Minister.
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The functions of the Advisory Council in regard to Veterans and the spouse, widow or widower of Veterans are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act as an advocate to promote their health interests; 2. Provide advice to the Minister about any aspect of the provision of health services; 3. Provide advice or assistance to the Minister in relation to the development or implementation of systems or mechanisms designed to support the delivery of health services or programs; 4. Assist the Minister and the Department in the provision of information to, and to consult broadly with Veterans in relation to health services provided by incorporated health services in the State; 5. Consult with other bodies that are interested in the provision of health services to veterans; 6. Provide advice to the Minister about any matter referred to it by the Minister or the Chief Executive; 7. Provide advice to the Minister on the development and management of health services and on the resources made available for these services and in so doing, reflect the views of Veterans; 8. Provide advice to the Minister when the agreement between the Department and the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs is renegotiated; 9. Provide advice to the Minister on the non-clinical commitments to veterans and war widows, as recorded in the 1995 'Record of Ongoing Commitments' between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State. These non-clinical commitments are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the continuing work of voluntary bodies, including Ex-Service Organisations, is encouraged;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Ex-Service Organisations and communities are welcome to visit the former Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park and areas of significance; andc. The Chapel and Peace Garden are maintained at the former Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park.
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Our organisational structure

In accordance with the Rules as amended in July 2019, the Advisory Council comprises of no more than 15 Members who are appointed by the Minister. Of these, 10 may be nominated by the Advisory Council, one by the RSL, and four by the Minister.

Changes to the agency

During 2020-21 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Minister



Hon Stephen Wade MLC is the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in South Australia. The Minister oversees health, wellbeing, mental health, ageing well, substance abuse and suicide prevention.

Our Executive Team

VHAC is supported by an Executive Officer, Chris Lemmer, who is employed by RSL Care SA. The position is funded by SA Health through a service agreement with RSL Care SA.

Legislation administered by the agency

The Advisory Council does not administer legislation.

The agency's performance

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
More jobs	Not Applicable.
Lower costs	Not Applicable.
Better Services	The VHAC provides advice to the Minister on the provision of health services to Veterans and to the spouse, widow or widower of Veterans.

Agency specific objectives and performance

Refer Presiding Member's Report

Corporate performance summary

Not Applicable

Employment opportunity programs

Not Applicable

Agency performance management and development systems

Not Applicable

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Not Applicable

Executive employment in the agency

Not Applicable

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

Not Applicable.

The Veterans' Advisory Council is a non-incorporated Health Advisory Council. It does not control assets, incur expenditure or receive revenue.

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

The Veterans' Advisory Council is a non-incorporated Health Advisory Council. It does not control assets, incur expenditure or receive revenue.

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil to report

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
Health Care Act 2008 Part 4 Health Advisory Councils, Division 3 Related Matters, Clause 22 Annual Report	A HAC must, within 3 months after the end of each financial year, deliver to the Minister a report on the operations of the HAC during that financial year.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Not Applicable

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Nil to Report