



VETS Act: Rehabilitation, Household Services & Attendant Care

Sarah Proust, Director,
Rehabilitation Policy, Benefits Policy Branch

Topics

Rehabilitation

What is changing in DVA rehabilitation from 1 July 2026?

Scenarios and personas

Household Services & Attendant Care

Changes from 1 July 2026 in HHS and AC services?

Scenarios and personas

Complementary Supports – and key changes





Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rehabilitation

What is DVA rehabilitation?

- From 1 July 2026, DVA rehabilitation is available to any veteran with an accepted injury or condition that is related to their service.
- DVA rehabilitation supports veterans to build skills to enable them to maximise their wellbeing and achieve their rehabilitation goals.
- DVA rehabilitation is different from medical treatment, which is delivered through the DVA card system.
- Rehabilitation support is separated into three “streams”.

1. Medical Management

- Medical management rehabilitation can assist veterans to:
 - find and independently access health professionals and veteran and family specific assistance programs from DVA and other organisations (e.g. Open Arms), and
 - build health literacy to proactively manage their health and wellbeing.



2. Psychosocial rehabilitation

- Psychosocial rehabilitation can help veterans to:
 - overcome barriers that may be impacting social wellbeing, the ability to function independently or manage changes in their life,
 - improve life management skills,
 - engage with family and community, and
 - enhance social connections.



3. Vocational rehabilitation

- Vocational rehabilitation can assist veterans with:
 - obtaining or sustaining suitable and meaningful employment,
 - getting skills and prior learning assessed,
 - engaging in job readiness and job seeking activities,
 - taking part in a work trial, and
 - learning new skills via training courses.

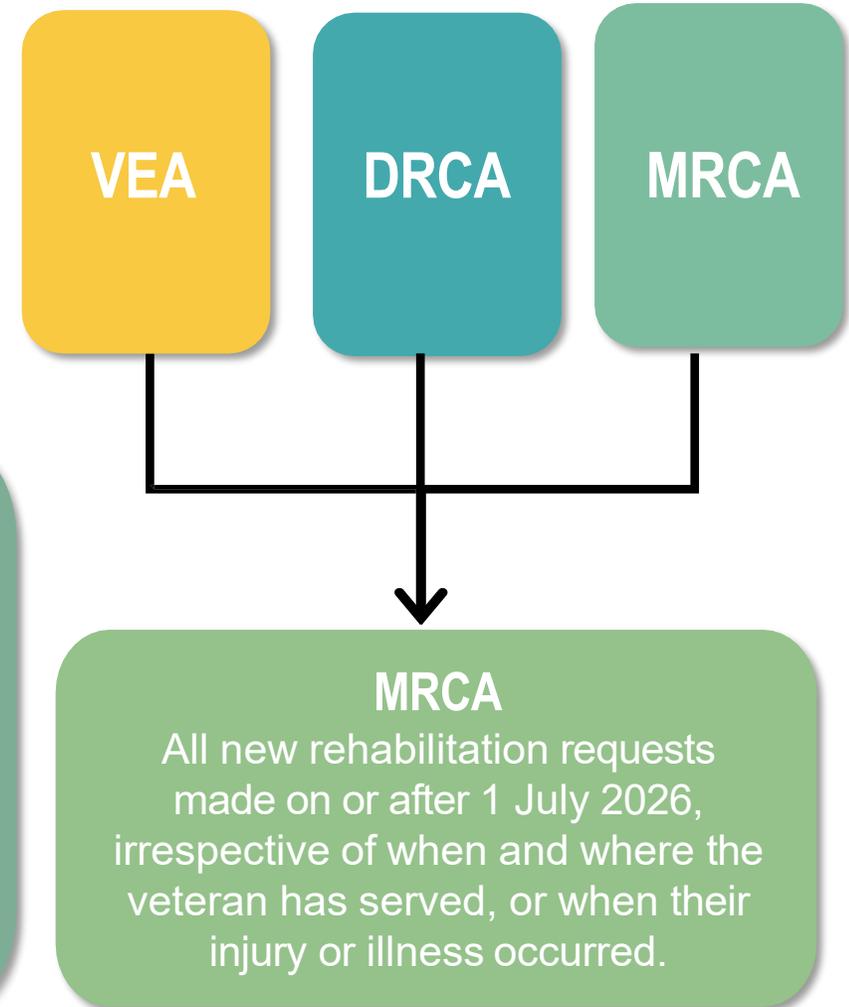


What is changing?

Simplified legislation from 1 July 2026

- All new requests for rehabilitation determined under the MRCA.
- Veterans with existing VEA and DRCA rehabilitation plans will transition to the MRCA (no action by veteran required).
- VEA and DRCA closed to new rehabilitation claims.

▶ **Three Acts into one**



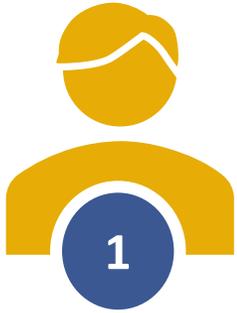
What does this mean post-1 July 2026?

Access to broad rehabilitation support under the MRCA which aims to:

“maximise the potential to restore a person who has an impairment, or an incapacity for service or work, as a result of an injury or disease to at least the same physical and psychological state, and at least the same social, vocational and educational status, as he or she had before the injury or disease” Section 38, MRCA.

What does this mean for DRCA and VEA veterans?

- Any VEA or DRCA veteran who has an open rehabilitation plan before 1 July 2026 will transition to the MRCA and their plan will continue without interruption when a request for variation occurs.
- DRCA veterans should not notice any changes, as there are no differences between DRCA and MRCA rehabilitation.
- VEA veterans participating in the *Veterans' Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme* (VVRS) will retain their existing 'safety net' provisions.
- DVA will also review veterans' VVRS plans to identify if there are any additional rehabilitation activities that may be of benefit. In reviewing these plans, VVRS participants' existing rehabilitation supports will not be reduced.



Scenario 1 - Veteran has never previously made a claim for compensation

Name: Leading Aircraftman Cedric Smith
Group: Australian Airforce
Service Years: 2000 - 2010

Injury sustained on service in June 2002 (but not claimed)
Liability for the injury accepted on 20 September 2026
Even though Cedric's injury occurred prior to 2004, all requests for compensation and rehabilitation services are to be considered under the MRCA



Scenario 2 - Veteran with VEA/DRCA claim(s) accepted prior to 1 July 2026

Name: Major Tania Wazey
Group: Australian Army
Service Years: 2000 - 2010

Liability for injury accepted on 11 August 2019

Irrespective of when she served, Tania is eligible to apply for rehabilitation under the new MRCA legislation

However, her requirement for rehabilitation must still be linked to an injury or condition that has been accepted as related to service

More information

Please visit [DVA rehabilitation | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) to learn more, including:

- Who can get a rehabilitation plan,
- How the rehabilitation process works,
- Who supports veterans through a rehabilitation plan,
- What DVA requires veterans to do while on a plan.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Household Services & Attendant Care

What are Household Services?

- Compensation for Household Services is currently provided under the **DRCA and MRCA** to veterans assessed as requiring help with **domestic tasks in and around their home** as a direct result of an injury or disease for which liability has been accepted.
- Common services may include help with domestic cleaning, laundry, ironing, meal preparation, lawn mowing, gardening and gutter cleaning.

Key information - Household Services

- The veteran must have been responsible for doing the specific household task prior to their accepted service-related injury.
- The veteran must now be unable to do that specific task because of their accepted service-related injury.
- DVA is required to consider whether it is reasonable for a member of the veteran's household to assist them with that task, without being paid to do so.



Key information - Household Services

- If approved, veterans must source a provider and manage all service arrangements.
- Services are approved based on assessed need and subject to a weekly statutory limit, unless the veteran is determined to be Catastrophically Injured.



What are Attendant Care services?

- Compensation for Attendant Care services is currently provided under the **DRCA and MRCA** to veterans assessed as requiring help with their **regular and essential personal care** needs because of an accepted service-related injury or condition.
- Common services may include help with bathing/showering, toileting, grooming, dressing, eating and drinking.

Key information – Attendant Care services

- Includes only those services required to meet the veteran's essential and regular personal care needs.
- Services must be required because of the veteran's accepted service-related condition.
- DVA is required to consider whether it is reasonable for a member of a veteran's household to assist with personal care tasks without being paid to do so.



Key information – Attendant Care services

- Veterans are required to independently source and manage all interactions with their providers.
- Services are approved based on assessed need and are subject to a weekly statutory limit unless the veteran is determined to be Catastrophically Injured.



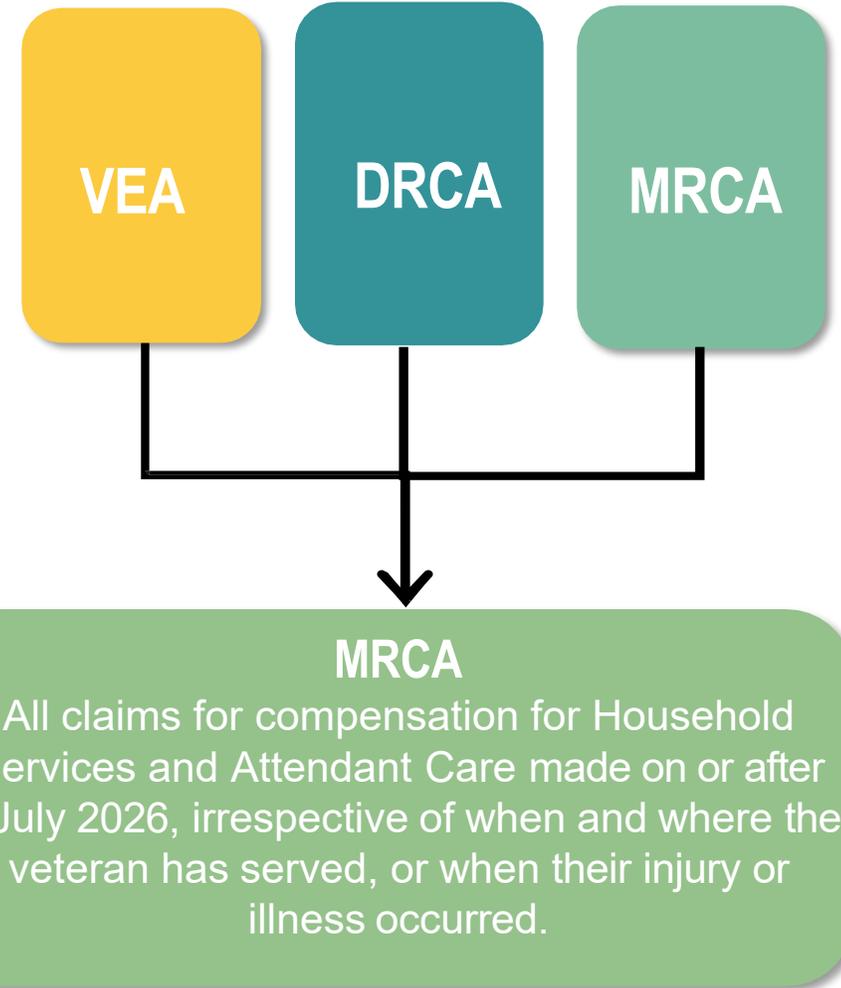
What is changing?

Simplified legislation from 1 July 2026

- **All new** claims for compensation for Household Services and Attendant Care determined under the MRCA.
- The VEA and DRCA closed to new claims.



Three Acts
into one



From 1 July 2026:

- **DRCA** veterans already receiving Household Services and Attendant Care:
 - will continue to receive compensation until their renewal date (at which point their claim will be assessed under the MRCA), or
 - can discuss transitioning to the MRCA before the end of their approval period by contacting DVA*.

* Approved services will continue to be based on assessed need and MRCA weekly statutory limits would apply.

Name: Warrant Officer Abilene Parker.
Group: Royal Australian Navy
Service Years: 1989 – 2001

WO Parker is currently receiving Attendant Care under the DRCA at the statutory limit of \$588.55 per week. The end of her current approval period is 26 October 2028.

WO Parker will be able to contact DVA to discuss transitioning to the MRCA earlier than her current end date post-1 July 2026.

The statutory limit for Attendant Care under the MRCA is \$611.46 per week.

From 1 July 2026:

- **VEA** veterans can:
 - contact DVA and discuss how to access Household Services or Attendant Care services under the MRCA, and
 - continue to access complementary supports, where eligible, or choose which support to access.

Name: Private Troy Swift
Group: Australian Army
Service Years: 1968 – 1977

Private Swift has 3 accepted VEA conditions.

He is currently receiving Personal Care services through VHC.

From 1 July 2026, Private Swift's VEA accepted conditions will also be accepted under the MRCA. He will then be able to claim for Household Services and/or Attendant Care under the MRCA.

If Private Swift is approved for Attendant Care under the MRCA, he is no longer eligible for VHC personal care services.



Scenario 3 – Household Services, Attendant Care and rehabilitation working together

Name: Midshipman Lee Ng

Group: Royal Australian Navy

Service Years: 1999 - 2003

Midshipman Ng has a spinal injury due to his service in the ADF which was accepted under the DRCA in October 2000.

Midshipman Ng is participating in DVA rehabilitation to achieve a range of goals, including moving into a more sustainable employment role. Attendant Care compensation assists Midshipman Ng with showering and getting ready each day, while Household Services compensation assists Midshipman Ng with tasks around the home.

Midshipman Ng's supports will be automatically transitioned to the MRCA over time, after 1 July 2026. His open DRCA rehabilitation plan will transition to the MRCA without interruption. Midshipman Ng will continue to receive compensation for Attendant Care and Household Services until the scheduled review/renewal date, at which point his claims will be assessed under the MRCA.



Complementary Supports

Veterans' Home Care, Attendant Allowance & Community Nursing

What is Veterans' Home Care (VHC)?

- Eligible Gold and White Card holders are entitled to an assessment for the following services:
 - domestic assistance,
 - home and garden maintenance,
 - personal care, and
 - respite care.
- Service limits and co-payments apply.
- The VHC Assessment Agency assesses individual needs and links veterans and other eligible clients with a provider.



For more information or an assessment contact the VHC Assessment Agency, on 1300 550 450.

Key information – VHC, Household Services and Attendant Care

Pre-1 July 2026

- Veterans with service-related conditions accepted under the **MRCA or DRCA**, should first be assessed for Household Services or Attendant Care services.
- Veterans with service-related conditions accepted under the **MRCA** found to have a requirement for Household Services, cannot access domestic assistance or home and garden maintenance from VHC. If they are found to have a requirement for Attendant Care, they cannot access personal care under VHC.
- Veterans with conditions accepted under the **DRCA** found to have a requirement for Household Services or Attendant Care, can access VHC domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance or personal care but cannot receive **duplicate** services.

Key information – What is changing?

Post-1 July 2026

- Current service limitations for **MRCA** veterans (outlined on previous slide) will apply.
- For **DRCA** veterans these service limits will apply once a new determination is made under the **MRCA**.
- Veterans can choose to access **either** household services/attendant care services under the MRCA **or** domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance and personal care through VHC.
- **All** eligible Gold and White Card holders can request an assessment for, or continue to access, Respite Care services through VHC.



Scenario 4 - VEA client moving from Veterans Home Care to Attendant Care after 1 July 2026

Name: Corporal John McMillan

Group: Australian Army

Service Years: 1986 - 1995

Corporal McMillan is receiving personal care support through VHC under the VEA.

From 1 July 2026, Corporal McMillan could continue to access VHC or he could apply for Attendant Care compensation under the MRCA for his service-related personal care needs.

Corporal McMillan applies for Attendant Care compensation and the DVA delegate considers all evidence (which may include a functional assessment) and approves compensation for showering and dressing for half an hour each day.

Corporal McMillan is no longer eligible for VHC personal care services. He must find a new provider and manage all service arrangements himself.

Attendant Allowance

- Attendant Allowance is a regular allowance paid to eligible veterans with conditions accepted under the **VEA**, including amputations, blindness, total deafness, severe spinal and brain injuries.
- **Two levels of allowance** – high and low rates.
- Paid directly to the veteran to enable them to purchase assistance from an attendant.
- Provides funding to purchase support with personal care and other similar activities of daily living.

Eligibility for Attendant Allowance

Pre-1 July 2026

- Only available to veterans who meet specific criteria resultant of service-related conditions accepted under the **VEA**.



Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

No. 27, 1986

Eligibility for Attendant Allowance

Post-1 July 2026

- No new claims for Attendant Allowance.
- Grandparenting arrangements will apply so current recipients can continue to receive Attendant Allowance.
- Veterans receiving Attendant Allowance can apply for Attendant Care Services under the MRCA.
- The level of Attendant Allowance received will be taken into account when determining the level of Attendant Care services that may be approved under the MRCA.

Key information - Community Nursing

- The Community Nursing Program:
 - is not impacted by legislative reform, and
 - will continue to be available to eligible Veteran Card holders post-1 July 2026.
- Any personal care services provided by the Community Nursing Program will be taken into account when assessing the level of Attendant Care services approved for veterans under the MRCA.





Scenario 5 – Attendant Care, VHC or Aged Care Support at Home Program

Name: Colonel Mary Taylor

Group: Australian Army

Service Years: 1978 - 1992

From 1 July 2026, Colonel Taylor may apply for Attendant Care compensation due to her accepted service-related condition(s). Services are approved based on assessed need and are subject to a weekly financial limit, though there are no limits on particular services under that cap. Colonel Taylor will need to source and manage her own providers.

Colonel Taylor may also be eligible for personal care under VHC or Community Nursing, if she holds a Gold card or White card with accepted conditions. In most instances, VHC services require a co-payment which is capped at \$5 per week for domestic assistance, \$10 per week for personal care and \$75 over a 12 month period for home and garden maintenance. Colonel Taylor could choose from a contracted DVA provider.

Alternatively, Colonel Taylor may consider accessing the Support at Home Program for personal care assistance. Colonel Taylor will need to apply for this program through [My Aged Care](#), undergo a needs assessment, and provide income and asset information to determine her level of contribution/co-payment for services.

Colonel Taylor cannot receive the same services from different DVA programs or the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing programs like Support at Home.

Quiz – Question 2

DRCA veterans receiving Household Services must lodge a new claim prior to 1 July 2026 to continue receiving these services after that date.

True

False

Quiz – Question 3

From 1 July 2026, veterans can receive both Attendant Care services under the MRCA and Personal Care services under the VHC program.

True

False

Resources on the DVA website:

[DVA rehabilitation](#)

[Household Services](#)

[Attendant Care Services](#)

[Veterans' Home Care \(VHC\)](#)

[Attendant Allowance](#)

[Community Nursing](#)





Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Thank you for watching

legislation.reform@dva.gov.au