



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION
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Pharmaceutical Costs Review
Department of Veterans Affairs
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Dear Sir / Madam

The widening gap between the DVA Pharmaceutical Allowance and the cost of the concessional pharmaceutical copayment paid by veterans has been an increasing concern to affected veterans and the Government's decision to address the problem is welcomed.

The Association is of the view that any veteran requiring medication for war caused or service related disabilities should not incur expenses for that medication.

The practical difficulties associated with implementing a scheme that would attempt to differentiate between medications prescribed for war caused or service related disabilities and other medical conditions have been well addressed in the Consultation Paper.

In particular the difficulties for a prescribing health practitioner to determine whether a pharmaceutical need is linked to an Accepted Disability or not, is a very practical issue. Allied to this problem is the increasing awareness of comorbidity - ie, the recognition that individuals may have a constellation of pharmaceutical needs in multiple illnesses, but only one or two may have been accepted as war caused or service related.

The Association believes that Option 1 in the paper is the only practical way of achieving the Government's commitment to resolving the issues. We acknowledge that it would extend additional assistance beyond the scope of the Government's commitment, but in view of its simplicity it may actually result in cost savings over Option 2.

DFWA is aware of the submission by Legacy to this review and supports the view of Legacy that war widows and orphans must be included, together with veterans.

Yours sincerely

Les Bienkiewicz
Executive Director

17 June 2010