



THE HON. WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

THE HON. ALAN GRIFFIN MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE ADF AND BEYOND

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Alan Griffin MP today announced that Associate Professor David Dunt has been appointed to conduct a review of mental health care in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the transition to non-military life.

The review will provide an independent assessment of the existing mental health programs and support across the ADF and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and advise on their effectiveness, gaps in services, and challenges in delivery. It will also examine and advise on the transition process between the ADF and DVA.

"The mental wellbeing of our service men and women is critically important, and we are committed to providing support to ADF members throughout their career and into civilian life," said Mr Snowdon.

"We already know that Defence is not immune to the nation-wide shortage of mental health staff. This review will better identify those gaps in resources and outline strategies to ensure the very best care is available for ADF personnel and the ex-service community."

Mr Griffin said, "Associate Professor David Dunt has a strong public health background, and is well qualified to examine both Defence and DVA's mental health services. I am confident he will provide practical solutions that will help us improve these crucial services.

"With the number of recent deployments it is essential that our Departments are well prepared to support those who have returned from active duty.

"The review will be particularly helpful in examining the transition from military to civilian life and will assist my department to provide services that meet the needs of younger veterans," he said.

The review is expected to take approximately six months, with a report due to both Ministers by mid December 2008.

Associate Professor David Dunt

Biographical Details

A/Professor David Dunt is a Public Health specialist and epidemiologist with major interests in health services research and health program evaluation. His current appointment is Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics, School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne.

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