



Veterans' Entitlements Treatment Principles Amendment (Outreach Program Counselling) Determination 2024

Instrument R1/2024

I, Matthew James Keogh, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, approve for the purposes of subsection 90(6) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, the amendments by the Repatriation Commission of the *Treatment Principles* in the following instrument.

Dated 21 March 2024

Matthew James Keogh
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

The Repatriation Commission, under subsection 90(5) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, makes the amendments of the *Treatment Principles* in the following instrument.

Dated 1 February 2024

The Seal of the
Repatriation Commission
was affixed to this instrument
in the presence of:

Alison Frame

President

Kate Pope

PSM

Deputy President

Mark Brewer

AM CSC and Bar

Acting Commissioner

Kahlil Fegan

DSC AM

Commissioner

Contents

1 Name	1
2 Commencement.....	1
3 Authority	1
4 Schedules.....	1
Schedule 1—Amendments	2
<i>Treatment Principles (No. R52/2013)</i>	2

1 Name

This instrument is the *Veterans' Entitlements Treatment Principles Amendment (Outreach Program Counselling) Determination 2024*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the start of the day after it is registered.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 90(5) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendments

Treatment Principles (No. R52/2013)

1 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “Australian Government’s Better Access initiative”

omit

2 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “outreach program counselling”

omit

an entitled person

insert

a person

3 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “outreach program counsellor”

substitute

“outreach program counsellor” means:

- (a) a *psychologist* who is registered as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia; or
- (b) a *social worker (mental health)* who is accredited as a Mental Health Social Worker with the Australian Association of Social Workers:

being a person approved by the *Department* or the *Commission* to provide *outreach program counselling* under Part 7.7A.

4 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “Principles”

substitute

“Principles” means this instrument.

5 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service” or “VVCS”

substitute

“Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service” or “VVCS” means the service funded by the Department known as Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling.

6 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “VVCS criterion”

omit

7 Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “VVCS OPC Provider Notes”

omit

entitled

8 Paragraphs 7.7A.1, 7.7A.2 and 7.7A.3

substitute

7.7A.1 The treatment of *outreach program counselling* is established under this Part and may be provided by an *outreach program counsellor* to an *eligible person* in accordance with the *Principles*.

Note 1: paragraph 7.1A.1 requires *outreach program counselling* to be provided in accordance with the *VVCS OPC Provider Notes*.

7.7A.2 A person is eligible for *outreach program counselling* if:

- (a) the person is eligible for *VVCS* under the Act; and
- (b) in the opinion of the *Commission*:
 - (i) the person is unable to reasonably have access to a *VVCS Centre* due to the physical isolation of the person's place of residence in Australia; or
 - (ii) despite the person having reasonable access to a *VVCS Centre*, there is a special reason for the person requiring *outreach program counselling*; and
- (c) the *outreach program counselling* is provided to the person by an *outreach program counsellor* pursuant to a referral from the *Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service*.

9 Schedule 1 item 25

omit

<http://www.vvcs.gov.au/Services/outreach.htm>

substitute

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/resources/provider-resources>

10 Schedule 1 item 26

omit

<http://www.vvcs.gov.au/Services/outreach.htm>

substitute

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/resources/provider-resources>

11 Schedule 1 items 27 and 28

omit