

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 | Kate Pope |
|  | PSM |
| President | Deputy President |
| Mark Brewer | Kahlil Fegan |
| AM CSC and Bar | DSC AM |
| Acting Commissioner | Commissioner |

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Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.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

1. Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “outreach program counselling”

*omit*

an entitled person

*insert*

a person

1. Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “outreach program counsellor”

*substitute*

**“outreach program counsellor”** means:

1. a *psychologist* who is registered as a psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia; or
2. 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.

1. Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “Principles”

*substitute*

“**Principles**” means this instrument.

1. 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.

1. Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “VVCS criterion”

*omit*

1. Paragraph 1.4.1, definition of “VVCS OPC Provider Notes”

*omit*

entitled

1. 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*.

1. Schedule 1 item 25

*omit*

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

*substitute*

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

1. Schedule 1 item 26

*omit*

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

*substitute*

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

1. Schedule 1 items 27 and 28

*omit*