



Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Monday, 18 August 2014

VA060

GREATER ACCESS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH FACEBOOK

As part of the Abbott Government's ongoing commitment to increasing the accessibility of veteran mental health support, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson today launched an integrated social media presence for the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

"The VVCS is at the frontline of mental health and wellbeing support for the veteran community and provides counselling and group programs for veterans and their family members," Senator Ronaldson said.

Combined with the recently launched VVCS Website, a VVCS Facebook presence provides an additional pathway for members of the veteran community and their families to connect to this important support service.

"The VVCS Facebook page will enable the veteran community to learn more about VVCS group programs and other services. It will also provide an avenue for community questions to be answered as an online VVCS veteran support community is established."

"VVCS online tools can be accessed on mobile platforms, ensuring instant and simplified access to information and support details when it's needed."

Announcing the launch on Vietnam Veterans Day, Senator Ronaldson said that online tools can support existing services in an important way.

"The VVCS online presence is part of a wider initiative by my Department to increase on-line and social media presence."

The overwhelmingly positive response to the recent mental health support campaign sponsored by the DVAAus Facebook page has shown that there is a real desire to learn more about veteran mental health via online and social media channels.

The VVCS provides free and confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance and anger. The VVCS also provides relationship and family counselling to address issues that can arise due to the unique nature of military service.

For help, to learn more, or to check eligibility, call 1800 011 046 or visit www.vvcs.gov.au.

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Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546)

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