



Royal Commission
into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Submissions to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Overview

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide invites interested members of the public and institutions to make submissions to the Royal Commission using an online form, or this paper form.

The Royal Commission will continue to accept submissions until at least the end of March 2022. A date for the closing of submissions will be announced before the end of 2021.

Making a submission

The online form is designed to capture information that is relevant to the work of the Royal Commission and consistent with the areas of inquiry set out in the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference. That form is replicated here, on paper, for use by people who have no access to the Royal Commission's website.

The terms of reference for the Royal Commission are included in the Letters Patent, which were made on 8 July 2021.

Before you make a submission, please note that the Commission cannot resolve individual disputes. It cannot fix or award compensation or make orders requiring a party to a dispute to take or not take any action.

The Royal Commission is using one form for all submissions. Not all questions will be relevant to every person or entity making a submission.

The form includes questions about:

- you (e.g. your name, contact details, whether you identify as being from a particular group)
- your submission (e.g. what is it about; is it about your own experiences or made on behalf of someone else)
- which of the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference your submission is about.
- The form also enables you to provide the Royal Commission with other comments including your views on what changes you would like the Royal Commission to recommend.

You may make your submission anonymously and you may choose not to provide contact details. Your submission will still be reviewed by the Royal Commission. However, the Royal Commission will be unable to contact you if it needs to verify details in your submission.

Your submission may be made public unless you request that it not be made public, or if the Royal Commission considers it should not be made public. That will usually only occur for reasons associated with fairness. Submissions that are made public may include redactions made as the Royal Commission considers appropriate. You may request that, if your submission is made public, it is made public anonymously.

Completing as much of the form as possible will assist the Royal Commission to identify issues and trends. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

If you are concerned about issues relating to more than one person, you may wish to complete a separate submission for each person.

If you have concerns that information that you are considering providing to the Royal Commission may be defamatory, you should consider seeking independent legal advice.

How your information will be used

The information you give to the Royal Commission is provided to help the Royal Commission with its work and will be used only for the purposes of the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission may contact some individuals or entities that make submissions. The Commission will not contact everyone who makes a submission, but will ensure that all submissions are recorded, reviewed and used to inform the Commission's work.

The information you provide may be published by the Royal Commission during its proceedings or in its reports without revealing the identity of the person or entity who supplied the information. At the conclusion of the Royal Commission all of its records, including submissions, will become subject to requests under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act). Royal Commissions are not subject to the FOI Act while they are in operation.

Hardcopy version of submission form

If you prefer to use a paper form, the Royal Commission would still like to hear from you. You can print this PDF version, fill it in, and mail it to: Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, GPO Box 3273, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

If you are unable to print this form, you can ring the Royal Commission on 1800 329 095 (9:00 am to 7:00 pm AEST Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays) and we will post a form to you.

Thank you

It is not possible for the Royal Commission to follow up every submission it receives. However, every submission will be recorded, and reviewed. The Commission thanks you for making a submission, and for assisting the Commission with its work.

1. Questions about you

1.1. What is your name?

Note: submissions may be made anonymously. This question is optional. You do not need to include your name. Providing your name will help the Royal Commission to contact you about your submission. If you include your contact details they will not be published by the Royal Commission.

Your name:

1.2. What is your email address?

If you provide your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you make your submission.

Note: This question is optional. You do not need to include an email address. Providing an email address will help the Royal Commission to contact you about your submission. If you include your contact details they will not be published by the Royal Commission.

Your email address:

1.3. What is your preferred contact phone number during business hours?

Note: you do not need to include a telephone number. Providing a telephone number will help the Royal Commission to contact you about your submission. If you include your contact details they will not be published by the Royal Commission.

Your phone number:

1.4. In which state or territory do you live?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- ACT
- NSW
- VIC
- TAS
- SA
- WA
- NT
- QLD
- Outside Australia
- Prefer not to say

1.5. Do you live in a remote, rural or regional area?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Remote area
- Rural area
- Regional area
- No

1.6. Your address details

Note: This question is optional. Providing these details will help the Royal Commission to contact you about your submission. If you include your contact details they will not be published by the Royal Commission.

Street or PO Box address:

Suburb:

State:

Country, if not Australia:

Postcode:

1.7. If you have already made a submission to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, what is the Response ID you were provided by the Royal Commission when you made it?

Response ID:

1.8. Are you a current serving member?

- Yes
- No

1.9. Are you a previous serving member?

- Yes
- No

1.10. Who are you making this submission for?

Note: please select only one option for this question. If you wish to select multiple options, please complete a separate form for each option.

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Myself
- Another person
- Organisation (including Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local government agency)

Skip to question 4

Skip to question 3

Go to question 2

2. Your organisation

2.1. What is the name of the organisation (including Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local government agency) you are making this submission for?

(Required)

Name of organisation:

2.2. What is your position within the organisation?

Position Title:

Skip to question 4

3. I am making this submission on behalf of someone else

You must have the permission of the other person you are making a submission on behalf of, before providing their personal contact details.

Note: Some of the following questions are optional. Providing a response to these questions will assist the Royal Commission with its work. If you include any contact details they will not be published by the Royal Commission.

3.1. What is your relationship to the person you are making this submission for?

Please select only one option

- Child
- Spouse
- Grandchild
- Sibling
- Father
- Mother
- Grandfather
- Grandmother
- Friend
- Legal guardian
- Legal power of attorney
- Legal representative
- Office holder / Organisation
- Other

If other, please specify:

3.2. What is the name of the person you are making a submission for?

Name:

3.3. Is the person you are making the submission for deceased?

(Required)

- Yes **(Skip to question 4)**
- No **(Continue to the next question)**

3.4. To your knowledge, is the person you are making a submission for, a person who is or who identifies as a member of one or more of the following groups?

Please select all that apply.

This question is optional – providing a response will help the Royal Commission with its work.

- People who are veterans
- People who are the spouse, widow or widower of a veteran
- People from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- People from non-English speaking (culturally and linguistically diverse) background
- People who are financially or socially disadvantaged
- People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless
- People who are care leavers
- People from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community
- Prefer not to disclose

3.5. What is the email address of the person you are making a submission for?

Email:

3.6. What is the phone number of the person you are making a submission for?

Phone Number:

3.7. Does the person you are making this submission for live in a remote, rural or regional area?

Please select only one option

- Remote area
- Rural area
- Regional area
- No
- Prefer not to disclose

3.8. In which State or Territory does the person you are making this submission for live?

Please select only one option

- ACT
- NSW
- VIC
- TAS
- SA
- WA
- NT
- QLD
- Outside Australia
- Prefer not to disclose

4. Questions about your submission to the Royal Commission

4.1. Which of the Royal Commission's terms of reference is your submission about?

Please select all that apply.

(Required)

- Common themes and issues among defence and veteran suicides or lived experiences of suicidal behaviours and risk factors. (a)
- Risk factors relevant to defence and veteran suicide, such as: (b)
 - the initial recruitment process (b)(i)
 - service history, training and deployment, including factors specific to the individual service branch (Navy, Army, Air Force), and posting and promotion history (b)(ii)
 - transition out of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) or between service categories (b)(iii)
 - access to, availability and timeliness of, health care, wellbeing and support services (physical and mental health support services), including the quality and effectiveness of these services (b)(iv)
 - holding and sharing of personal information about the defence member and veteran between different government services/departments (b)(v)
 - reporting and recording of information about mental and physical health at enlistment, during and after service. (b)(vi)
- The impact of culture within the ADF, the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs on defence members' and veterans' physical and mental wellbeing. (c)
- The role of non-government organisations, including ex-service organisations, in supporting defence members, veterans, their families and others within the community. (d)
- Protective and rehabilitative factors, including things to reduce the likelihood of development or acceleration of a mental health condition, and rehabilitation for defence members and veterans who have lived experience. (e)
- Issues that exist within, and the availability and effectiveness of, support services for families and others: (f)
 - affected by defence or veteran death by suicide (f)(i)
 - who have supported a defence member or veteran with lived experience. (f)(ii)
- Common themes and issues among defence members' and veterans' experiences in accessing claims, entitlements, and support services from government, including trying to engage with multiple government organisations. (g)
- Legislative and policy frameworks relating to support services, claims and entitlements. (h)
- Social or family contexts, housing or employment issues, and economic and financial circumstances. (i)
- Any other matter reasonably relevant to the Royal Commission's inquiry. (j)

5. Your submission

5.1. What would you like to tell the Royal Commission?

(Required)

Please add more pages as required

6. Additional supporting material

6.1. You can provide additional supporting documents or attachments as part of your submission.

How many submission attachments do you have?

7. Publishing your submission

7.1. Making your submission public

Note: your submission may be made public unless you request that it not be made public or the Royal Commission considers it should not be made public. That will usually only occur for reasons associated with fairness. Submissions that are made public may include redactions made as the Royal Commission considers appropriate.

(Required)

Please select only one option

- I agree to my submission being made public under my name
- I agree to my submission being made public anonymously
- I do not want my submission to be made public