



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Department of Veterans' Affairs

DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Human Research Ethics Committee

Report to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force
and to the Chief Operating Officer of the
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Report — 1 July–31 December 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee (DDVA HREC) was established on 1 July 2017 and met five times between 1 July and 31 December 2017.
2. Previously, the Department of Defence (Defence) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) each had their own institutional human research ethics committees (HREC), which were the Australian Defence Human Research Ethics Committee (ADHREC) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee (DVA HREC). Secretariat support for the Committee is provided by Defence and supported by DVA.
3. The ongoing monitoring obligations for 68 active research proposals that were approved by ADHREC and 74 active research proposals that were approved by DVA HREC were transferred to the DDVA HREC. Eight of the 142 proposals were approved by both HRECs. A review of the DVA HREC proposals by the Secretariat and the Deputy Chair identified seven quality assurance activities and one clinical audit. These proposals were transferred back to DVA for ongoing monitoring as they are outside the remit of the DDVA HREC.
4. Expressions of Interest for membership of the DDVA HREC were sought in early 2017 and following a selection process 22 members were appointed to the required categories of membership. Members were appointed in accordance with the requirements of the '[DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines](#)¹' and the '[National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#)²' (the National Statement).
5. Twenty of the twenty-two members attended a face-to-face induction meeting in Canberra prior to the first official meeting of the DDVA HREC. A number of articles relevant to human research ethics were also distributed to the Committee and remain available for members via a dedicated page for Committee members and administrators in Govdex.
6. During the reporting period the Committee reviewed 25 new proposals, 10 resubmissions, 35 amendments and 12 requests for extensions to the period of ethical approval.
7. There were three adverse events reported. The Chair deemed that the appropriate action had been taken by the researchers in relation to the adverse events.
8. There were 14 serious adverse events reported. The Principal Investigator advised that nine events were unlikely to be related to participation in the research and the remaining five events were not likely to be related to participation in the research. The Chair and another member reviewed the reports and the events were deemed to be unlikely related to participation in the research.
9. No complaints were received.
10. Ten research proposals were granted ethical approval during the reporting period.
11. Thirteen research proposals were completed or closed during the reporting period.

1 DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines http://www.defence.gov.au/health/hrec/docs/DDVA_HREC_Researcher_Administrative_Guidelines.pdf

2 National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/e72>

BACKGROUND

12. The DDVA HREC is the institutional HREC for Defence and DVA. It was established on 1 July 2017 as a result of the December 2014 Ministerial Paper '[Smaller Government – Towards a Sustainable Future](#)'³ recommendation that ADHREC and the DVA HREC merge.

INTRODUCTION

13. In accordance with the National Statement and the [DDVA HREC Terms of Reference](#)⁴, the DDVA HREC will provide annual reports (based on a calendar year) to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force and the Chief Operating Officer (DVA). This first report provides a summary of DDVA HREC's activities from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

14. Committee membership for the reporting period is provided at Table 1.

Table 1: Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee Members

Position/Category	Name
Chair	Professor Colin Thomson
Deputy Chair	Mr Ian Tindall
Laywoman not associated with Defence or DVA	Ms Margaret Proctor
Layman not associated with Defence or DVA	Ms Vivienne Moyle
	Mr Lindsay Roe
	Dr David Ugalde
Person with knowledge of , and current experience in, the professional care, counseling or treatment of people	Dr Carl Bryant Mr Stephen Brimstone
Person who performs a pastoral care role in a community	Revd. Dr Nikki Coleman CHAP Rob Sutherland
Lawyer	Dr Wendy Bonython Ms Sarah Byrne

3 Smaller Government – Towards a Sustainable Future <https://www.financeminister.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/towards-a-sustainable-future.pdf>

4 DDVA HREC Terms of Reference http://www.defence.gov.au/health/hrec/docs/171205_DDVA_HREC_Terms-of-Reference.pdf

Position/Category	Name
Researcher	Mr Tony Cotton Dr Bert Biggs Dr Jane Harte Dr Rebekah Doley Dr Renee Otmar Dr Richard Saker
Defence Health Graduate	Dr Vicki Ross CAPT Nicole Curtis, RAN
Contemporary Veteran	Ms Catherine Walsh Mr Chris Wilson

15. A brief biography of members is provided at Annex A.

TRAINING

16. In accordance with the National Statement paragraph 5.2.3 (c), members are required to attend continuing education or training programs in research ethics at least every three years. In this inaugural year, 20 of the 22 members attended a face-to-face induction meeting in Canberra prior to the first official meeting of the DDVA HREC. A number of articles relevant to human research ethics articles were also distributed to the Committee and remain available for members on Govdex.

17. The Chair and the Secretariat also attended a meeting with HREC Chairs and administrators for Canberra based HRECs in November 2017 where attendees discussed general trends for HRECs; emerging technologies; collaboration and promotion of research ethics; and cross-institutional approvals.

MEETINGS

18. The Committee met five times during the reporting period. Due to the size of the agenda in November 2017, the meeting was held across two days on 20-21 November 2017.

19. The number of members allows for a roster of attendance at meetings, developed with regard to the minimum membership requirements under the National Statement to accommodate member availability and allow for succession planning. Upon member appointment, the Secretariat consulted the members regarding their availability to attend meetings for the reporting period. In developing the meeting roster the Secretariat considered member availability, gender balance, attendance of the minimum number of members per category and ensuring members attend a sufficient number of meetings to develop and maintain their skills. Where a member is rostered to attend a meeting and advises the Secretariat that they are no longer able to attend, the Secretariat tries to source an alternative member to attend and where this is not possible, the member is asked to provide out-of-session feedback on the agenda items tabled at the corresponding meeting. The initial roster and the meeting attendance record are at Annex B.

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

20. The Secretariat functions were provided by Ms Terri Davis (Acting Director Defence Health Research (1 January – 31 July 2017, A/Executive Officer 1 August – 21 September, Executive Officer 22 September onwards) and Ms Georgina Gill (Research Administration Officer). In addition, Ms Elisha Buzzi from DVA provided part time administrative support.

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE

21. The Committee's expenditure for the reporting period was \$68,785.65 made up of:
- a. Sitting fees \$48,720.00
 - b. Travel Expenses \$14,977.63
 - c. Catering \$358.95 (including expenditure by both departments), and
 - d. Advertising for Committee member recruitment \$4,729.06.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Overview of the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee activities

22. Due to the closure of ADHREC and the DVA HREC the monitoring obligations of active projects were transferred to the DDVA HREC on 1 July 2017. In total, 142 approved projects were transferred to the DDVA HREC for ongoing monitoring. This consisted of 68 from ADHREC, 74 from DVA HREC, and included eight protocols which were granted ethical approval by both committees.
23. The Executive Officer and the Deputy Chair conducted a review of the protocols that were transferred over from the DVA HREC and identified seven quality assurance activities and one clinical audit. The monitoring obligations of these protocols were transferred back to DVA in December 2017 as they were outside the remit of the Committee.
24. During the reporting period, 25 new research proposals were submitted to the DDVA HREC for ethical review. Of these, 12 fell within the remit of Defence, nine fell within the remit of DVA and four fell within the remit of both organisations.
25. The outcome of the review of the new research proposals at 31 December 2017 was:
 - a. One proposal was not considered by the Committee as organisational support for the research was not provided by Defence.
 - b. Four proposals were withdrawn by the researcher prior to ethical approval being granted.
 - c. Four proposals were deemed to be quality assurance activities and recommendations were made to ensure the ethical robustness of the activities.
 - d. Seven proposals were granted ethical approval.
 - e. Nine proposals required additional information prior to ethical approval being granted.
26. The Committee also reviewed 10 resubmissions. Two of the resubmissions had previously been reviewed by ADHREC and one by the DVA HREC. The remaining seven resubmissions were initially reviewed by the DDVA HREC during this reporting period.
27. A list of projects that were granted ethical approval during the reporting period is at Annex C.
28. In addition to considering new research proposals and resubmissions, the DDVA HREC considered the following:
 - a. 36 amendments of which 13 fell within the remit of Defence, 10 fell within the remit of DVA and 13 fell within the remit of both organisations.
 - b. 12 requests for extensions to the period of ethical approval of which five fell within the remit of Defence and nine fell within the remit of DVA.

RESEARCH MONITORING

29. In accordance with the National Statement Chapter 5.5, Defence and DVA have a responsibility for ensuring that research approved by their institutional ethical review body (DDVA HREC) is monitored in a manner that reflects the degree of risk to research participants. A summary of the monitoring activities conducted during the reporting period is provided below.

Progress Reports

30. As a condition of approval and in accordance with National Statement paragraph 5.5.5, researchers are required to submit reports at least annually to the relevant ethical review body/ies. In accordance with the 'DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines', progress reports are to be submitted by 1 June and 1 December for the lifespan of the project. Protocols that were transferred from the DVA HREC had a variety of reporting timeframes, based on the date of ethical approval. These have been progressively aligned as reports have fallen due and been received. Going forward, all progress reports will be due 1 June and 1 December each year, for all protocols.

31. The Secretariat provides a compliance register to DDVA HREC that lists all active research projects. It is a register that tracks what progress reports were received for a reporting period, what reports are outstanding and where further information is required until all reports have been received or the Committee has advised on the appropriate course of action. Reports were due by 1 December 2017 and the compliance register was provided to the DDVA HREC at the February 2018 meeting.

Serious Adverse and Adverse Events

32. Researchers are required to report serious adverse events to the DDVA HREC within 72 hours and adverse events within 30 days.

33. During the reporting period the DDVA HREC received notification of three adverse events relating to an ADHREC approved project. The nature of the events included pain in the knee, hip flexor and blisters on three separate participants. The reports were reviewed by the Chair and it was decided that appropriate action had been taken for each of the events. No further action or information was required from the Principal Investigator.

34. Additionally, the DDVA HREC received notification of 14 serious adverse events for one DVA HREC approved study. Notification of the events was initially submitted to the research organisation's Clinical Events Committee for review and a notation made to this affect in progress reports that were submitted to the DDVA HREC. The study's Principal Investigator submitted reports detailing specifics of each event to the DDVA HREC in December 2017. Of the 14 reports, the Principal Investigator advised that nine events were unlikely to be related to participation in the research and the remaining five events were not likely to be related to participation in the research. The reports were reviewed by the Chair and another member who concluded that since this was an educational study (not a clinical intervention), the events were deemed unlikely to be related to the research and no further action or information was required.

Complaints

35. There were no complaints related to approved research projects received by the DDVA HREC during the reporting period.

Completed Research Projects

36. In accordance with the National Statement paragraph 5.5.5, researchers are required to submit a final report at the completion of their research. A list of the research projects that were finalised and reported to DDVA HREC in the reporting period is at Annex D.

37. Occasionally, the DDVA HREC will receive requests for waivers of the requirement for consent to participate in research. These requests are considered in accordance with the National Statement, the [Privacy Act 1988](#)⁵ and other relevant guidance and/or legislation.

38. Waivers of consent are only reported at research completion in accordance with the National Statement paragraph 2.3.12.

39. During the reporting period the DDVA HREC received a Final Report for E012/002 Use of Aged Care Program. This project was approved by the DVA HREC and involved linkage of a number of data sets obtained as part of the Veterans' Home Care program. The DVA HREC approved the waiver of consent for the project, being satisfied that there were sufficient mechanisms in place to protect the privacy of individuals and confidentiality of data; that it was impracticable to obtain consent due to the size of the research cohort; that it was unlikely that participants would not have consented to use of their data for this project; that the research was of no more than low risk; and that the waiver was not prohibited by State or Federal law.

REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

40. The Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated to reflect recommendations made by the National Health and Medical Research Council (as part of the registration process) and the feedback provided by the Committee during the reporting period. The revised Terms of Reference are available on the DDVA HREC website.

5 [Privacy Act 1988](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/pa1988108/)

CONCLUSION

41. Although the overall number of new research proposals received by the Committee during the reporting period was lower than anticipated, there was a large increase in the number of proposals tabled for consideration at the November 2017 meeting. The number of proposals is being monitored to assess and confirm the anticipated trend for the next reporting period.

42. The Committee will continue to refine its processes over the next calendar year.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Chair – Professor Colin Thomson

Professor Thomson is a Professor of Law and Academic Leader for Health Law and Ethics in the Graduate School of Medicine, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health at the University of Wollongong. He also works as a consultant.

He has been a member, and chair, of several research ethics committees (1984–2004, 2010 onwards) and chairs the HRECs at Department of Health and Departments of Defence and of Veterans Affairs, Commonwealth of Australia. He has been a member (1998-2002), and chair (2006-2009), of the Australian Health Ethics Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and of working parties on the 'National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research' (1999 and 2007) and the NHMRC National Ethics Application Form working party.

Professor Thomson has developed accreditation standards for lead human research ethics committees (HRECs) (for NSW Health), reviewed the Tasmanian research ethics review system, is a member of the Harmonisation of Multiple Ethical Review (HoMER) certification working group of the NHMRC and has conducted numerous HoMER certifications. In his consulting work, he has had extensive involvement in training for HREC members across Australia, for the NHMRC, State Departments of Health in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and for numerous universities and other research institutions.

He has published nationally and internationally on issues in human research ethics, health law and ethics and is a joint author of 'Good Medical Practice: Professionalism, Ethics and Law', 4th edition, 2016 (Australian Medical Council). He is also a senior consultant with Australasian Human Research Consultancy Services.

Deputy Chair – Mr Ian Tindall

Mr Tindall is currently serving as an active Reservist within the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). He is an inaugural Committee member and Deputy Chair of the Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee, and a previous member of the Ashford Community Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee and the Australian Defence Human Research Ethics Committee. Mr Tindall is currently a Consultant Pharmacist working in a variety of roles.

Layperson – Mr Lindsay Roe

Mr Roe has worked for over thirty years in the Australian Public Service, initially in the field of design and development of administrative computer systems. He was also involved in the introduction of computing to a number of areas within Commonwealth departments and the

training of staff in computing skills. He subsequently moved on to project management and IT audit and eventually performance audit with the Australian National Audit Office.

Mr Roe received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Queensland and a Master of Arts from the University of Western Sydney.

He is now a freelance consultant in the areas of Quality Assurance and workplace interactive skills.

Layperson – Dr David Ugalde

Dr Ugalde has extensive experience in research and policy in both the Victorian and Australian Governments mainly in agriculture, environmental management, regional development, and rural sociology. He has broad experience in program and project management, risk management, research design, data handling, biometrics, and communication. Currently he is a private consultant providing science and policy advice to a number of government departments, industry organisations, and universities, both in Australia and overseas. Dr Ugalde is also a member of the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

Layperson – Ms Margaret Proctor

Ms Proctor is an Educational Consultant who has expertise in International Education and qualification recognition in particular. She holds undergraduate and graduate qualifications from the University of Toronto Canada. Ms Proctor has over fourteen years' experience on human ethics committees at academic institutions in both Australia and Canada.

Layperson – Ms Vivienne Moyle

Ms Moyle has more than two decades of experience in management and administration in government, non-governmental organisation and university systems in Australia and the United States. She holds postgraduate degrees in Political Science, Education and Counselling along with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Ms Moyle is currently the Senior Manager, Industry Engagement and Commercialisation with Newcastle Innovation (the commercialisation arm of the University of Newcastle).

Professional care/counselling – Mr Stephen Brimstone

Mr Brimstone is a psychology graduate of the University of Queensland. He has been in practice for almost forty years.

Mr Brimstone's areas of clinical interest comprise substance misuse, gambling, mood disorders, anxiety, trauma and workplace stress injury. He has a long-standing involvement in private practice service provision to Veterans and serving military personnel.

Mr Brimstone participated in Department of Veterans' Affairs Queensland regional psychology service panels from the early 1980's through to 2010. He has been a Visiting Psychologist to Greenslopes Repatriation General Hospital (1984-91), Sunshine Coast Private Hospital (Psychiatry Unit (2005-08), 1st Military Hospital and 2nd Field Hospital (ADF; 1991-2002). Over the last 15 years, he has provided services to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service as both a clinician and a group programs facilitator.

In 2006, he was appointed to the Expert Reference Group of the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Learning. More recently, he has been a member of the Brisbane North Primary Health Network (previously Medicare Local) Clinical Governance Reference Committee (2013-17) and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Psychology Panel; 2015-current). Mr Brimstone is a Psychology Advisor to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a role he has performed since 2005.

Professional care/counselling – Dr Carl Bryant

Dr Bryant graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Queensland in 1999 and completed his Basic Surgical Training in 2003. After initially working in neurosurgery, he was accepted into the Australasian College of Sports Physicians as an advanced trainee in 2006. He concurrently enlisted as a Medical Officer in the Australian Army, and served in Reserve and full-time roles (including deployments to Afghanistan, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste) before transitioning to the Australian Public Service (APS) in 2012. His subsequent APS roles include general medicine, military rehabilitation, and medical administration and he currently serves as the Regional Medical Advisor for Queensland. Whilst working in the APS, he has completed a Masters of Sports Medicine (UQ, 2013), an Associate Fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (2014) and a Masters of Public Health (Defence) (UQ, 2015). In 2016, he transferred speciality training to Medical Administration and is due to complete a Masters of Health Management (UNSW) in 2018.

In addition to DDVA HREC, Dr Bryant is also a current member of the Joint Health Command Low Risk Ethics Panel (since 2016).

Pastoral Care – Revd. Dr Nikki Coleman

Revd. Dr Coleman is a Uniting Church minister who is a military bioethicist. She currently teaches bioethics at the Australian National University, in the summer bioethics program at Yale University and has previously taught military ethics for seven years at the Australian Defence Force Academy (University of New South Wales). Her research work focuses on space ethics (including terrorism in space), the question of obedience in the military, moral injury of soldiers, the use of military personnel in medical experimentation, the rights of individuals and the role of the citizen soldier. She is currently the Commissioner for Spiritual Development for Scouts ACT, and has previously worked as a multi-faith chaplain at ANU, emergency services chaplain and a congregational minister. Revd Dr Coleman is also a Reserve RAAF Chaplain.

Pastoral Care – CHAP Rob Sutherland

CHAP Sutherland served as an Infantry Officer for 20 years before training as an Anglican minister. Since ordination he has been a prison chaplain, parish priest and has spent 18 years as an Army Chaplain both in the Army Reserve and the Australian Regular Army. CHAP Sutherland is currently an Assistant Minister in a parish in Sydney working with veterans and their families and chaplain to Headquarters 6th Combat Support Brigade.

Lawyer – Dr Wendy Bonython

Dr Bonython is an Associate Professor at the School of Law and Justice, in the Faculty of Business Government and Law at the University of Canberra. Her research and teaching interests focus on torts, and health and biotechnology law, regulation, and ethics. She has postgraduate qualifications in law and molecular medicine, and prior to entering academia, she worked in clinical research and health administration in the public sector.

Lawyer – Ms Sarah Byrne

Ms Byrne (GAICD PRI-NMAS BA LLB) is a lawyer with over 25 years' experience, including public law, health law, ethics, corporate governance, and policy. Past positions include General Counsel for the Australian Medical Association and two Commonwealth Government Departments, ACT Public Advocate, Deputy CEO of the ACT Justice & Community Safety Directorate, and Executive Director with responsibility (inter alia) for Research Integrity and Corporate Governance for the NHMRC. She is an accredited mediator, a Director of the Australian College of Optometry, a member of the ACT committees of the Dental Board, Chair of the HREC of the National Vision Research Institute, and lawyer on the Department of Health HREC. She has served on the boards of several non-profit arts organisations and three NHMRC Partnership Centres. She has particular interest and expertise in information law, health and medical research law and ethics, intellectual property and governance in the public and non-profit sectors.

Researcher – Mr Tony Cotton AM

Mr Cotton is an industrial psychologist with nearly thirty years experience providing and managing a broad range of psychological services in large and complex workplaces.

He was Director of Psychology for the Australian Defence Force and served on a number of international collaborative research panels. He was also the inaugural Director of Mental Health for the ADF where he was responsible for developing and implementing the ADF Mental Health Strategy.

After leaving the ADF he spent five years as the senior psychologist for the Australian Federal Police before moving into his current role as Director of Workforce Research and Analysis at the Australian Public Service Commission where he oversees a broad range of workplace and organisational psychology research supporting the APS workforce including developing the APS Human Capital Framework and the APS Employee Engagement model.

Mr Cotton is currently completing his PhD studying employee engagement in the Australian Public Service.

Researcher – Dr Bert Biggs

Dr Biggs has a PhD in Psychology and is a registered Psychologist with over 30 years industrial and academic experience. He has worked as a rehabilitation counsellor, psychologist and researcher, and his most recent position was as Research Professor in the Faculty of Health at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). He remains an active researcher and consultant and is an Adjunct Professor at both QUT and Curtin University of Technology. He maintains active affiliations with several international Universities and Research Centres. Areas of recent research include safety culture frameworks in the construction sector, alcohol and other drug issues in mining and construction environments, regulatory, organisational and operational challenges in roadwork construction and maintenance, and mental health concerns in remote fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out workforces.

Researcher – Dr Jane Harte

Dr Harte is a consultant organisational psychologist with extensive experience in the Defence, mining, health and higher education sectors. She is also an academic with higher degrees, including a Masters and a PhD from Swedish and Australian universities as well as several ongoing academic appointments in Australia and Britain. She regularly teaches in the graduate business programs of the University of St Andrews in Scotland, is responsible for the educational experience of medical students on rural rotation for James Cook University in North Queensland, and heads up a research group in agricultural health and medicine for the University of Southern Queensland.

Researcher – Dr Rebekah Doley

Dr Doley has built a career on developing practical solutions for real world interpersonal problems. Her work in psychology has addressed roles in the military, organisational, clinical, forensic and legal sectors. Dr Doley has an established practice which operates nationally and internationally, based on the Gold Coast, providing psychological risk management services and dispute resolution to individuals and corporate clients. Over the last decade, at Bond University she has established Australia's first research oriented centre devoted to exploring psycho-legal risk management issues, including deliberate firesetting, and counter-productive workplace behaviour. Rebekah has authored peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and edited books. She is active in Executive and Director roles for not-for-profit boards and national committees.

Researcher – Dr Renée Otmar

Dr Otmar is the Executive Officer of Western Alliance, an academic health science centre providing support for health and medical research with a focus on regional rural/remote health outcomes. In addition to her responsibilities in strategic planning and implementation, day-to-day operations, financial management, communications and staffing, she convenes the annual research symposium and administers the Centre's research funding portfolio.

Dr Otmar has broad and extensive expertise in health communications research, policy research and writing, stemming from an earlier career as a book editor and publisher. Her current research interests include the use of artificial intelligence to improve health outcomes and the communication of risk across the spectrum of health care and disease.

She serves as a Councillor (director) of a national professional association and as a researcher member of the Barwon Health HREC since 2014. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (media and politics) and five postgraduate degrees, including the Master of Public Health and a PhD (The University of Melbourne), and a Certificate in Governance Practice (Governance Institute of Australia).

Researcher – Dr Richard Saker

Dr Saker is an experienced Western Australian medical practitioner of approximately 40 years' experience, a medical graduate of the University of Western Australia and was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Curtin University (WA) in 2012.

He has worked as a medical administrator in both the public and private healthcare sectors and has practiced as a clinician. He is a medical researcher in the translational medical research domain and his interests are in medical research, with a focus on introducing innovative and improved health care for the purpose of improving patient safety and the quality and efficiency of health care.

Defence Health Graduate – Dr Vicki Ross

Dr Ross joined the Army undergraduate scheme in 1985 while completing her medical training at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital. After two years working as a medical resident at the Geelong Hospital, Dr Ross joined the Army on a full-time basis.

Dr Ross has had postings to the 1st Field Hospital, Duntroon Medical Centre, Headquarters Logistic Command (Army) and various positions within Joint Health Command. Colonel Ross became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) in 1997, completed a Masters of Public Health (MPH) in 2003 and became a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (FAFPHM) in 2006. In 2008, Dr Ross transitioned out of the full time Army to take up a public service position as a Senior Medical Advisor within Joint Health Command. She remains in the active Army Reserve.

Dr Ross was Executive Secretary of ADHREC from July 1998 to June 2000 and was appointed a member of ADHREC in 2002.

Defence Health Graduate – Captain Nicole Curtis, RAN

CAPT Curtis joined the Royal Australian Navy as a final year medical student at Monash University in 1995. She completed her intern year at Dandenong Hospital and a resident year at Geelong Hospital before commencing her Navy officer training. CAPT Curtis' recent shore postings include Fleet Medical Officer and Director Health at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. Her sea service has included deployments in South East Asia, North East Asia and operational deployments to East Timor, and the Middle East region.

CAPT Curtis is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course. She is a registered medical practitioner with specialist registration in General Practice and Medical Administration, is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators. Her academic qualifications include MBBS, MA, MHM, and a Grad Cert Maritime Studies.

Contemporary Veteran – Mr Chris Wilson

Mr Wilson served in the RAAF from January 2003 through to August 2014 where he retired with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Mr. Wilson was trained as a Navigator and Tactical Co-Ordinator on the AP3-C Orion aircraft with which he conducted two tours in support of operations in Afghanistan and one in support of operations in Iraq.

Mr. Wilson concluded his service with the RAAF as an Air Combat Officer Aviation Instructor at RAAF East Sale between 2012 and 2013 and was awarded the title of Instructor of the Year in his final year. Since retiring from the RAAF, Mr. Wilson has completed 3 years of Postgraduate Medicine at the Australian National University (ANU) where he is due to graduate at the end of 2018. During his time at ANU he has been a member of the governing Council of the University, elected President of the Postgraduate Students' Association, and acted as Council Chair of the Australian Medical Students' Association. Mr. Wilson's research interests include active decision making acquired Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, concussion in sport, and medical administration optimisation.

Contemporary Veteran – Ms Catherine Walsh

Ms Walsh served as an Intelligence Officer in the permanent RAAF for 14 years. In 2010, she transitioned to the active Reserves, where she continues to serve, and embarked upon a career in the Australian Public Service. During her RAAF career, she deployed on multiple domestic and international operations and exercises. Her most notable contribution was as a founding member of the maritime and overland intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance detachment in the Middle East Area of Operations in 2003, as well as domestic border protection operations in the early 2000s.

Ms Walsh participated in the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Australian Defence Force Women's Steering Committee in 2013 and brings strong practical ethical perspectives as a result of her diverse and active philanthropic pursuits in the local community. She holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications from the University of New South Wales.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE RECORD

1. Table B1 is the initial roster for members during the reporting period.

Table B1: Initial roster

Name	17 Jul 17	21 Aug 17	18 Sep 17	16 Oct 17	20 Nov 17
Professor Colin Thomson	x	x	x	x	x
Mr Ian Tindall	x	x	x	x	x
Mr Lindsay Roe	x	x			x
Dr David Ugalde	observer		x	x	
Ms Vivienne Moyle	observer		x	x	x
Ms Margaret Proctor	x	x			
Mr Stephen Brimstone	observer	x	x		
Dr Carl Bryant	x			x	x
Revd. Dr Nikki Coleman	x	x			x
CHAP Rob Sutherland	observer		x	x	
Dr Wendy Bonython	x			x	x
Ms Sarah Byrne	observer	x	x		
Mr Tony Cotton	x	x			
Dr Bert Biggs	observer			x	x
Dr Rebekah Doley	x		x	x	
Dr Renee Otmar	observer	x	x		
Dr Jane Harte	observer				
Dr Richard Saker	observer				x
CAPT Nicole Curtis	x				
Dr Vicki Ross	x	x	x	x	x
Ms Catherine Walsh		x		x	x
Mr Chris Wilson	x		x		

2. Table B2 provides a summary of member meeting attendance for the reporting period.

Table B2: Meeting Attendance Record

Name	17 Jul 17	21 Aug 17	18 Sep 17	16 Oct 17	20 & 21 Nov 17
Professor Colin Thomson	x	x	x	x	
Mr Ian Tindall	x	x	x	x	x
Mr Lindsay Roe	x	x			x
Dr David Ugalde	observer		x	x	
Ms Vivienne Moyle	observer		x	x	x
Ms Margaret Proctor	x	x			
Mr Stephen Brimstone	observer	x	x	x	
Dr Carl Bryant	x				x
Revd. Dr Nikki Coleman	x	x			x
CHAP Rob Sutherland	observer		x	x	
Dr Wendy Bonython	x			x	x
Ms Sarah Byrne		x	x		
Mr Tony Cotton	x	x			x
Dr Bert Biggs	observer			x	x
Dr Rebekah Doley	x			x	
Dr Renee Otmar	observer	x	x		
Dr Jane Harte	observer		x		
Dr Richard Saker	observer				
CAPT Nicole Curtis	x				
Dr Vicki Ross	x	x	x	apology with comments	x
Ms Catherine Walsh		x		x	x
Mr Chris Wilson	x		x		

3. CAPT Curtis took a leave of absence from the Committee from August – December 2017, as during this period she was in the direct chain of command of the staff providing the secretariat support to the Committee.

DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVED RESEARCH

1. Table C1 provides a list of research protocols that were approved by the DDVA HREC during the reporting period.

Table C1: Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee Approved Research

Principal Investigator and Institution	Protocol Number and Title	Description
Dr Andrew Bell International Committee of the Red Cross	858-17 International Committee of the Red Cross Roots of Restraint in War Study	The aim of this project is to examine the process by which military organisations can most effectively socialise soldiers in ethical norms and train soldiers in international humanitarian law.
Dr Belinda Edwards Australian Defence Force Academy	859-17 The Australian Defence Force and Operationalising Gender Perspectives: Operational Planning and Women, Peace and Security	The aim of this project is to examine and assess the Australian Defence Forces' in taking United Nations Resolutions related to 'Women, Peace and Security' and employing their intended gender considerations into planning for ADF operations and exercises.
Professor Dan Lubman Monash University	E017/016 The impact of social membership and social identity of wellbeing following the transition from ADF service to civilian life	This study aims to examine the social groups, identities and other social resources available to veterans as they transition from military to civilian life; understand the role of social groups, social identity and other social resources in protecting and enhancing wellbeing during this period; and identify the barriers and facilitators to engagement with social groups that promote a successful adjustment to civilian life.
Ms Donna MacGregor Queensland University of Technology	002-17 Secular trends of stature and body mass index in Australian Defence Force personnel from the Boer War (1899) to contemporary service members	The aim of this project is to identify and detail changes in stature and body mass index trends from 1902 to 2016 in the Australian population, using military enlistment data. The present application relates to data from current Defence members from 2015-2016.

Principal Investigator and Institution	Protocol Number and Title	Description
Dr Madeline Romaniuk Gallipoli Medical Research Institute	004-17 From Service to civilian life: Development, trial and psychometric properties of a military-civilian reintegration assessment tool*	The aim of this project is to develop a tool to enable the assessment of psychological adjustment and reintegration to civilian life following military service.
Dr Andrew Harvey La Trobe University	007-17 Supporting younger veterans to succeed in higher education*	The aim is to redress the lack of national research into veterans at university, their specific needs and strengths, and how they can be better supported. The participants will be ex-service personnel who are currently in higher education or have graduated from higher education. The method will be an online survey. The expected outcome will be a final report with recommendations.
SQNLDR Evan Smith Australian Defence Force Academy	008-17 Are ADF members pre-disposed to learning with an Xbox controller compared to current joystick-based M113AS4 turret controller?	This research aims to draw conclusions about current serving Defence members and a propensity to be more comfortable with an Xbox controller than a joystick.
CAPT Michael O'Donnell Australian Defence Force Academy	009-17 Tactical effectiveness of behaviour tree based AI in military simulation	The research study aims to determine the relative tactical effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence sections compared to human controlled section with military simulation.
Associate Professor Meaghan O'Donnell University Melbourne	010-17 What Does Successful Ageing Mean to Vietnam Veterans?*	The aim of this project is to identify the subjective understanding of what successful ageing means to Vietnam Veterans.
Dr Monique Crane Macquarie University	015-17 Examining the role of systematic coping reflection on enhancing resilience	The aim of this project is to investigate the efficacy of the Mental Fitness Training as compared to a cognitive behavioural skill development training approach to resilience.

* DVA specific research

COMPLETED OR CLOSED RESEARCH PROTOCOLS

1. Table D1 provides a list of research protocols that DDVA HREC has been advised were completed in the reporting period.

Table D1: Completed Research Protocols

Principal Investigator and Institution	Protocol Number and title
Dr Kim Bridle University of Queensland	E016/014 Iron metabolism and post-traumatic stress disorder in Vietnam veterans
Ms Bojana Spasojevic Sijacki Griffith University	E017/023 RAAF Pilot Retention
Ms Nicole Steele Department of Defence	618-11 Impact of psychological climate on the wellbeing of ADF personnel
Dr Jason Mazanov Australian Defence Force Academy	693-13 Engineering spares determination: Increasing efficiency and effectiveness
Professor Mark Moran University of Queensland	808-15 & E015/020 Deployed Women: Australian uniformed and civilian female personnel in peace and security operations
Dr Daniel Billing Defence Science and Technology Group	827-16 Real-time physiological status monitoring
Dr Monique Crane Macquarie University	839-16 A mechanism for enhancing mental fitness as a consequence of stressor exposure: Exploring the role of systematic reflection
Dr Belinda Edwards Australian Defence Force Academy	859-17 The Australian Defence Force and Operationalising Gender Perspectives: Operational Planning and Women, Peace and Security

Principal Investigator and Institution	Protocol Number and title
SQNLDR Evan Smith Australian Defence Force Academy	008-17 Are ADF members pre-disposed to learning with an Xbox controller compared to current joystick-based M113AS4 turret controller?
Dr Michael Barlow Australian Defence Force Academy	009-17 Tactical effectiveness of Behaviour Tree based AI in military simulation
Professor Martin Tattersall University of Sydney	E013/009 Advance care planning in incurable cancer patients with disease progression on first line chemotherapy: a randomised control trial
Ms Alexis Lohmeyer University of Adelaide	658-12 The culture of learning and the learning of culture: An ethnographic study of Cultural Awareness Training within the Australian Army
Dr Phil Anderson Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	E012/002 Use of Aged Care Programs

2. During the reporting period the principal investigator for E014/009 'The efficacy of two sleep therapies for improving sleep difficulties and mood in recently returned military personnel' advised that the research had been abandoned. The file was subsequently closed.

