



The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

19 June 2019

Re: Introduction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Treatment Cycle Initiative

Dear Minister,

I am writing to request your support for an immediate delay to the implementation of the Department of Veteran Affairs Treatment Cycle Initiative (TCI), due to be introduced on 1 July 2019.

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and our members are extremely concerned that in the absence of a delayed introduction, there will be a significant disruption of services for veterans. This will particularly impact those with chronic and complex conditions who typically have multiple treatment cycles at any one time. While clients will be grandfathered into the new treatment cycle, allied health providers will be unable to provide further service until the following treatment cycle is approved by the 'usual' GP. Veterans will be unable to access allied health treatment during this time.

To date there has been a total absence of preparation and guidance provided to the allied health sector and the providers currently delivering care to facilitate a successful transition to the new treatment cycle. The implementation of the new treatment cycle will require significant work by individual providers to transition their clients, yet there are now less than two weeks remaining.

AHPA recognises the need to implement the new treatment cycle but urgently request a revised implementation date of 1 October 2019. This short postponement will allow sufficient time for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to work with AHPA and our professional association members to develop and disseminate appropriate guidance for providers to ensure a smooth transition for veterans. We further request that DVA commit to working with and through AHPA and its members as an essential step to ensuring providers are appropriately prepared for these changes.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in conjunction with some of our key association members about this urgent issue. Please contact Philipp Herrmann, Manager – Policy and Communications for further information or to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Hewat
CEO, AHPA



About Allied Health Professions Australia

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is a collegiate body consisting of 20 national allied health associations members and a further five affiliate members with close links to the allied health sector. AHPA's members collectively represent over 120,000 allied health professionals who work across the primary, acute and tertiary sectors in Australia.

AHPA believes that it is vital that allied health professionals have the opportunity to work alongside the medical and nursing communities to help shape and implement the health care system of the future. Allied health professionals represent almost a third of the country's health care workforce and deliver over 200 million health services annually.

Allied health professions provide crucial support for people experiencing disability, chronic illness and a wide range of other health issues. Access to allied health services continues to be significantly lower in rural and remote regions leading to poorer health outcomes. By ensuring that allied health services are fully accessible across the country will we ensure that Australia has an integrated, comprehensive health care system which delivers world class health care.

Please visit www.ahpa.com.au for further information about our organisation and work.