



Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Webinar Pilot Program: Information Bulletin

BACKGROUND

DVA has identified webinars as a mechanism to further increase the knowledge and skills of mental health providers treating veterans and ex-service personnel. The webinar offerings will reflect the specific mental health needs of veterans and their dependants while also promoting greater engagement of practitioners in the use of mental health evidence-based treatments. To facilitate this, DVA has engaged HMA to:

“continue the delivery of a series of webinars targeted at mental health clinicians providing services to veterans.”

Roles and responsibilities

The project will deliver and evaluate eight webinars, covering a variety of topics delivered by experts in the field. To ensure the quality and usefulness of the webinars, HMA will work in a consortium comprised of the following parties:

- The Mental Health Professionals' Network (MHPN) – experts in webinar design and delivery for mental health professionals, and
- Professor David Kavanagh and Associate Professor Leanne Hides, Queensland University of Technology – providing expert advice on veterans' mental health.

HMA will be responsible for the overall project management and the evaluation.

Key to the project's success will be the involvement of a project advisory group consisting of representatives from the following organisations:

- The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN)
- The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)
- Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA)
- The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW), and
- Australian Psychological Society (APS).

PROJECT APPROACH AND TIMING

The project is being conducted in six stages from February 2018 to December 2019:

- **Stage 1 – Project set-up:** HMA finalised a detailed project plan and initiated formation of the project management team.
- **Stage 2 – Initial advisory group meeting:** the advisory group met with DVA and the HMA Consortium to discuss potential topics and expert speakers.
- **Stage 3 – Webinar development, production, promotion and delivery, webinar 7:** this stage involved all the required steps to successfully implement the first webinar, which occurred in May 2018. Following the webinar, a post-production review was prepared for the advisory group.

- **Stages 4–10 – Repeat implementation cycle Webinars 8 to 14:** this stage will involve repeating the steps required in Stage 3, to deliver webinars 8 to 14. In addition, there will be opportunity for the advisory group to discuss both upcoming webinars and the post-production reviews.
- **Stage 11 – Post-delivery review and evaluation:** a final meeting will be held to gain the advisory group's views on the overall value of the webinar series. In addition HMA will:
 - collate the post-production reviews to present overall trends and common themes, and analyse and synthesise qualitative and quantitative data for the evaluation. The HMA Consortium will prepare a final report summarising all findings from the previous stages. This report will include the evaluation report.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like further information regarding any aspect of the current project, please contact:

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