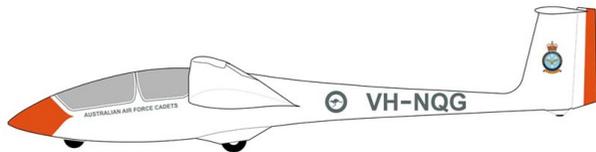




If you suffer an injury, disease or illness related to participation in an AAFC activity, you should lodge a claim as soon as possible. Not seeking treatment for an injury or disease can often make the condition worse. Lodging a claim quickly means you will start receiving your rehabilitation and compensation sooner rather than later.

**Information is also available on the WHS Portal of the AAFC Intranet.**



**AUSTRALIAN  
AIR FORCE CADETS**

**REHABILITATION  
&  
COMPENSATION**

#### **How to contact DVA**

133 254\* (Metropolitan Callers)

1800 555 254\* (Regional Callers)

Email: [GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au)

For rehabilitation information, visit  
[www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/rehabilitation](http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/rehabilitation)

For mental health information, visit  
[www.at-ease.dva.gov.au/](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au/)

\* Calls from mobile phones and pay phones may incur additional charges.

## REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation and compensation are important aspects of accident and incident management and is available to all AAFC Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets and Cadets who suffer an injury or illness as a result of participation in a AAFC activity. The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme (MRCS) is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and provides rehabilitation, treatment and compensation for all AAFC Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets and Cadets who suffer mental or physical injury or contract a disease as a result of their participation in AAFC activities on or after 01 July 2004. It also provides benefits for death as a result of participation in an AAFC activity.

The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) provides similar scheme of rehabilitation and compensation to that provided under the MRCS, for injuries and diseases suffered as a result of participation in AAFC activities up to and including 30 June 2004.

Rehabilitation is designed to assist individuals who are injured or become ill as a result of participation in AAFC activities. The type and extent of rehabilitation will depend on the nature and severity of the injury or illness and the individual circumstances. Individuals who are injured or suffer an illness related to their participation in AAFC activities may be eligible for compensation.

## COMPENSATION

Compensation is commonly associated with a loss. If, due to an injury or illness, an individual actually incurs or may in the future incur, for example, a medical expense or loss of income or suffer a functional impairment, they may be compensated for that loss.

AAFC Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets and Cadets who are incapacitated for their civilian work because of their participation in an AAFC activity can receive incapacity payment that reflect fairly the earnings they have lost.

## Who is Covered

All Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets and Cadets are covered under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme for injury, disease or death related to participation in AAFC activities on or after 1 July 2004. This includes injury, disease or death:

- sustained while travelling between home and the place where they undertake Cadet activities, including parades, camps etc, or
- aggravated, or materially contributed to, by Cadet activities on or after 01 July 2004.

Where a Cadet is under 18, a claim can be made by the person with primary responsibility for the daily care of the Cadet (eg a Cadet's parent, foster parent, step parent or guardian).

Volunteers who are not Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets or Cadets, are not eligible for compensation under MRCS but may be covered for compensation by the Department of Defence's insurance policy arrangements with Comcover.

If a volunteer is injured while participating in their official AAFC activity an *AD088 – Comcover Notification Record* and *AAFC WHS Incident Report* must be completed and sent to the Defence Insurance Office together with any other relevant details including a point of contact, as soon as practical after the incident occurred. These forms are available on the WHS Portal of the AAFC Intranet.

## Claiming

To make a claim for compensation the appropriate forms have to be completed and lodged with DVA. Claim forms are available from the nearest DVA office or from the DVA website. The MRCS provides payment of the cost of medical treatment for an accepted injury or disease.

Before DVA can assist, it is necessary to lodge a claim for acceptance of liability for the injury or disease under the MRCS, and for it to be determined that there is a liability to pay compensation for that injury or disease.

**Contacting DVA and submitting a claim is the first step to accessing help, including rehabilitation assistance.**

## Assessing Your Needs

Once your claim has been accepted, a needs assessment will identify if rehabilitation could improve your wellbeing by:

- prioritising your specific medical and other urgent needs,
- identifying whether you require general assistance, including household or attendant care services, and aids and appliances to help with your recovery, and
- identifying whether you require financial support such as incapacity payments.

## Developing the Plan

A tailored plan will be developed to meet your individual needs.

You will work with your rehabilitation provider and health providers to identify:

- your short and long-term goals,
- how your goals and recovery can best be achieved through medical, psychological and vocational support, and
- potential barriers to reaching your rehabilitation goals and ways to manage or overcome them.

## Bringing the Plan into Action

Your rehabilitation goals are broken down into specific measurable milestones.

These goals are then aligned with activities and timelines so you can see how you are going to achieve each goal and how long it will take.

Management and monitoring of the activities identified in your plan is undertaken.

Regular reviews are conducted to adapt the plan to your progress or any changes in your circumstances.

Plans are flexible and will be adjusted to ensure you achieve positive outcomes, while maintaining your independence.