



Veteran Access Payment

The Australian Government has tripled the Veteran Access Payment (VAP) for certain General Practitioner services as part of the 2023-24 Budget. The VAP is an incentive payment GPs receive, in addition to the Medicare rebate, when treating veterans who hold a DVA Gold or White Card. The increased VAP will apply to:

- all face-to-face general practice consultations more than 6 minutes in length (Level B-E attendances);
- all telephone and video general practice services which are between 6 and 20 minutes in length (Level B attendances);
- longer telehealth general practice consultations where a patient is registered with their general practice through MyMedicare.

For all other GP attendances, the standard VAP will continue to apply.

Why is this important?

This is a much needed change and shows the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring a better future for veterans and their families.

Our veterans make a solemn commitment to serve and defend our nation and the Australian Government is committed to repaying this commitment by providing effective transition, health and wellbeing support.

With increasing costs of living, the veteran community has told us they are finding it harder to find GPs who will treat them without cost, and this Budget addresses that with this \$33.3 million commitment over the next four years.

Who will benefit?

This measure will incentivise GPs to treat the more than 276,000 veterans and eligible dependents who hold Veteran White or Gold Cards.

From 1 November 2023, GPs who treat Veteran Card holders will receive increased VAP fees. The table below shows indicative increases as a result of tripling the fees. Actual rates will be higher due to indexation of benefits due to occur before the commencement of the measure.

Modified Monash category	Current DVA benefits (\$)	DVA benefits after VAP is tripled* (\$)
	VAP fee	
1 – metropolitan areas	7.75	23.25
2 – regional centres	11.80	35.40
3-4 large and medium rural towns	12.50	37.50

5 – small rural towns	13.30	39.90
6 – remote communities	14.05	42.15
7 – very remote communities	14.90	44.70

* Based on 2022-23 benefits. Actual rates will be higher due to indexation of benefits before the commencement of this measure.

Date of effect?

This change is due to come into force on 1 November 2023.

How much will this cost?

\$33.3 million over four years will be invested to increase the Veterans' Access Payment.