**Minutes**

**Agenda Item 1 Welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest**

Deputy Chair welcomed members, noted apologies from Brad Murphy, Libby Cremen and Jenny Firman and asked for any conflicts of interest. No conflicts raised from members.  
  
Deputy Chair welcomed visitors Anna Colwell, Brook Shearer, Ben Dalton,

Acknowledgement of country offered by Brook Shearer.   
  
**Agenda Item 2 Minutes & actions of previous meeting**

Members endorsed the minutes from the previous meeting.

Deputy Chair addressed action items.

**Agenda Item 3 Open Arms First Assistant Secretary**

First Assistant Secretary provided update on Open Arms program.

Deputy Chair relinquished to Chair

**Agenda Item 4 Repatriation Commissioner**Repatriation Commissioner Kahlil Fegan presented members with an update on the work of the office of the Commissioner, including historical and current trends.

**Agenda Item 5 Regional Update**

Assistant Director provided a regional update for Australian Capital Territory / Southern New South Wales.

**Agenda Item 6 Business Operations Update**

Assistant Secretary provided members an update on the Business Operation branch of Open Arms.

**Agenda Item 7 Minister Address**Minister Keogh addressed members acknowledging the work of the committee and outlined the strategic vision for Open Arms and the NAC.

Dr Khoo thanked members for their contributions and day one called to close 5:05pm local time.

**DAY 2.**

**Agenda Item 1**

Chair Dr Khoo welcomed members to day 2 and recap was provided, topics included:

1. **First Assistant Secretary update**
2. **Minister Update**
3. **Repatriation Commissioner address**
4. **Business Operations update**
5. **Regional update**

**Agenda Item 2 Clinical Operations Update**

Assistant Secretary provided members an update on the Clinical Operation branch of Open Arms, including data and statistics.

**Agenda Item 3 Lived Experience Workforce Update**Director Open Arms Lived Experience provided members an update to the lived experience workforce strategy.

**Agenda Item 4 Group programs Update**Director Group Programs and Pathways provided members an update on Open Arms group programs.

**Agenda Item 5 Guest Speaker**Ms Jennifer Wilde presented members an overview of the STOP PTSD program for information.

**Agenda Item 6 Canadian Study Tour Update**Open Arms First Assistant Secretary and DVA Chief Psychiatrist provided members an overview of the recent tour of Canada and the conferences attended.

**Agenda Item 7 Model of Care Update**Open Arms Senior Director Programs provided members with an update on the Model of Care.

**Agenda Item 8 Communications Update**Assistant Director Strategic Communications updated members on the communications strategy of Open Arms and associated media campaigns.

**Agenda Item 9 Other Business**

Member asked what reports get presented to Minister Keogh from NAC.   
Response: Due to changes in Ministerial personnel preferences for Minister Keogh have not been determined. NAC secretariat to arrange meeting between NAC Chair, Deputy Chair, FAS and Ministerial staff to discuss dates for 2025 and reporting preferences.

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| ***No.*** | ***Action*** | ***Assigned to*** |
| **2024-07** | Meeting to be arranged between NAC Chair, Deputy Chair, FAS and Ministerial staff to discuss dates for 2025 and reporting preferences | NAC Secretariat |

**Agenda Item 10 Final Comments**

Chair provided a summary of topics from final meeting of 2024.

Advised that once dates for 2025 meetings had been set, they would be distributed to members as soon as possible.

Thanked members for their contributions and wished everyone safe travels home.

**Meeting closed: 3:45pm**.

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| **Members** | |
| Dr Andrew Khoo | Chair |
| Ms Karen Bird | Deputy Chair |
| Dr Richard Magtengaard | Psychiatrist |
| Mr Max Ball | Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia |
| Ms Megan Fry | Psychologist |
| Ms Lidia Hall | Lived Experience Family Member |
| Ms Jane Pool | Social Worker |
| Mr Dave Farrell | Contemporary Veteran |
| Ms Rachael Cosgrove-White | Contemporary Veteran |
| **Ex-Officio Members** |  |
| Ms Leonie Nowland | First Assistant Secretary, Open Arms |
| Dr Jon Lane | A/g Chief Psychiatrist, Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| Ms Gwen Cherne | Veteran Family Advocate |
| BRIG Caitlin Langford | Director General Mental Health and Wellbeing, Defence People Group |
| **Apologies** |  |
| Dr Jenny Firman | Proxy to Anna Colwell |
| Dr Brad Murphy | General Practitioner |
| Ms Libby Cremen | Director General, Defence Members and Families Support |
| **Invited Guests** |  |
| The Hon. Matt Keogh | Minister for Veterans’ Affairs |
| Mr Andrew Kefford | Deputy Secretary, Policy & Programs Group DVA |
| Mr Michael Burvill | Assistant Secretary, Clinical Operations – Open Arms |
| Mr Ben Dalton | Assistant Secretary, Business Operations – Open Arms |
| Ms Brook Shearer | Senior Director, Programs– Open Arms |
| Ms Sharon Purcell | Director, Lived Experience – Open Arms |
| Ms Kathy Gregory | Director, Group Programs & Pathways – Open Arms |
| Mr Bucky Toller | Assistant Director, Strategic Communications – Open Arms |
| Mr Kahlil Fegan | Repatriation Commissioner – DVA |
| Ms Jennifer Wild | Department of Defence |
| **Secretariat** |  |
| Ms Karen Humphreys | Executive Officer – Open Arms |