



RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

PIONEER-FITZROY-HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

DENTAL AND ALLIED HEALTH SUBSIDY PROGRAM – POLICY

Program Aim

The Program has been developed in response to the District’s Strategic Plan, Pillar 2:

“PFH will remain a highly relevant charity delivering services to veterans and their families”.

In particular, the program aims to make access to dental and some allied health services easier and less costly for veterans in the District.

The Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program is a welfare based program developed to allow District Service Members the ability to undertake health treatment in a timely manner with financial support from the District.

This Policy aims to ensure that the program follows good governance and is administered efficiently, ethically and with financial accountability.

Background

Members in the district have differing levels of Private Health Cover, from no cover to Top Hospital and Extras. Regardless of the level of cover, there is almost always a gap in the cost of health treatment and the cost of associated aids and the funds provided by a Private Health Insurer. That being the case, it is common to see delays in obtaining health treatment, or the provision of appropriate aids, due to an imposing cost.

Allied Health Covered

1. DENTAL TREATMENT

Any dental treatment costs are an eligible subsidy claim under the program. This includes six monthly check ups.

2. HEARING AIDS

While hearing tests are an eligible subsidy claim, in reality the tests are free under Medicare for veterans. However, the cost of hearing aids and associated batteries are an eligible subsidy claim under the program

3. EYEGASSES

While eye tests are an eligible subsidy claim, in reality the tests are free under Medicare for veterans. However, the costs of glasses are an eligible subsidy claim under the program.

Confidentiality

Applicants must provide a general description of treatment or aids being sought on having been completed, including the quoted or actual cost on formal letterhead from the Provider. Applicants are not required to disclose full medical details or specific details of treatments and this detail should not be provided as part of the application.

All documentation produced as part of an application will be held in strictest confidence and only used by the District Executive when determining the application. The District Secretary will securely store only the bare minimum amount of documentation in order to satisfy current regulatory and legal requirements associated with record-keeping and auditing of accounts. Once the statutory time-frames have lapsed, records will be destroyed.

Eligibility

Currently, the program is limited to all categories of Service Members of the Pioneer- Fitzroy-Highlands District and who:

- a) Have at least 15 months of current continuous membership in RSL Queensland,
- b) Is not a permanent member of the ADF, and
- c) Has not been a permanent member of the ADF (including Full-time Reserve) in the past 12 months.

Exceptions

Members who have access to fully funded health treatment are not eligible for this program. This generally includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Members who hold, or are eligible to hold, a valid Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) Gold Card are not eligible for this program;
- b) Members who hold a valid DVA White Card for specified Health Treatment, may be eligible as long as the treatment being sought is not included as part of the specified cover approved by DVA; and
- c) Current members of the Australian Defence Force and Full-time Reservists who are eligible for health treatment at commonwealth expense.

However, service members referred to in (a) and (b) above, may be eligible to participate in the program under the following circumstances:

Hearing Aids

The program will cover costs associated with upgrading hearing aids to ones of better quality and the latest technology

Eye Glasses

In most cases these service members are only entitled to one set of glasses. The program will cover a second set of glasses within a two (2) year time frame.

Participating Health Practices

Members may seek Treatment at any Practice that has current registration within Australia (established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law).

Specifics of Subsidy

The District will budget funds for the program each year, with the following conditions to apply to applicants:

- a) The District Charitable Objects Fund may be used to fund part or all of the program.
- b) Treatment must be obtained through a registered Australian Health Practices.
- c) Travel and accommodation costs are not provided for in this subsidy.
- d) The amount that any eligible member may claim each calendar year is \$1000, regardless whether in a single claim or multiple claims.
- e) Members may apply to have a package of treatment subsidised. For example, a member may require extensive dental treatment.
- f) The District Executive may decide to subsidise the entire treatment cost if considered to be urgent and in the welfare interests of the individual.

Forms

Members that wish to apply for the Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program will need to complete the "PFH District Allied Health Cost Subsidy Application Form". The form can be obtained by contacting the District Secretary.

Program Commencement

The Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program will initially commence on approval of this policy.

This policy was approved by the District Executive on 24th August 2019 and approved at the District Council meeting on the 21st September 2019.