**Minutes**

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

Chair welcomed members, noted apologies from Jane Pool, Caitlin Langford, Leonie Nowland and Andrew Kefford and asked for any conflicts of interest. No conflicts raised from members.  
  
Chair welcomed new member Rachael Cosgrove-White and visitors: Jon Wauer; Brook Shearer and Pip Weiland (obo Caitlin Langford)  
  
Chair acknowledged resignation of member Ben Farinazzo and thanked Ben for his contribution to the committee. The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite was also recognised for his contributions to the NAC and it was noted the support received was exceptional. Deputy Chair seconded the acknowledgement for Hon M Thistlethwaite.

**Agenda Item 2 Minutes & actions of previous meeting**

Members endorsed the minutes from the previous meeting.

Chair addressed the action items.

**Agenda Item 3 Assistant Minister Remarks**

The Assistant Minister Hon Matt Thistlethwaite apology.

**Agenda Item 4 Strategic and Operational Update**Acting First Assistant Secretary Open Arms provided update. See attached presentation.

**Agenda Item 5 Regional Update**

Regional Director provided a regional update for South Australia. See attached presentation

**Agenda Item 6 Families Presentation**

Held over until day 2

**Agenda Item 7** **Lived Experience Workforce including Peer Presenter**Acting Assistant Secretary – Clinical Operations provided an update on the Open Arms Lived Experience Workforce.  
Open Arms Community and Peer Advisor provided a personal account of their journey from Service to Open Arms client to Peer advisor.

**Agenda Item 8 Enhanced Mental Health for Tasmania**Acting DVA Chief Psychiatrist provided an update on the Open Arms pilot for enhancing mental health in Tasmania. See attached presentation

Dr Khoo thanked members for their contributions and held over summary until day 2.

Day 1 called to close 4:20pm local time.

**DAY 2.**

**Agenda Item 1**

Chair Dr Khoo welcomed members to day 2 and a recap was provided including:

1. **Strategic and Operational Update**
2. **SA region updates**
3. **Lived Experience Workforce**
4. **Peer Advisor presentation**
5. **Enhanced Mental Health for Tasmania**

**Agenda Item 2 Families Presentation**

Veteran Family Advocate Ms Gwen Cherne presented members with an update on the work of the office of the Advocate.

**Agenda Item 3 Open Arms Communication Update**Senior Communication Officer presented members with an update on Open Arms communications.

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| ***No.*** | ***Action*** | ***Assigned to*** |
| **2024 - 04** | Peer Workforce – Governance | FAS OA |
| **2024 - 05** | Model of Care | FAS OA |
| **2024 – 06** | Enhancing Access to Mental Health Program – suggestions for next locations | FAS OA |

Dr Khoo thanked members for their contributions and wished everyone safe travel home.

**Meeting closed: 11:18 am**.

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| **Members/Attendees** | |
| Dr Andrew Khoo | Chair |
| Ms Karen Bird | Deputy Chair |
| Dr Brad Murphy | General Practitioner |
| Mr Max Ball | Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia |
| Ms. Rachael Cosgrove-White | Contemporary Veteran |
| Ms Megan Fry | Psychologist |
| Dr Richard Magtengaard | Psychiatrist |
| Mr Dave Farrell | Contemporary Veteran |
| Ms Lidia Hall | Lived Experience Family Member |
| Mr. Michael Burvill | A/g First Assistant Secretary - Open Arms |
| Dr Jenny Firman | Chief Health Officer, Department of Veterans’ Affairs |
| Dr Jon Lane | Senior Psychiatric Adviser, Open Arms |
| Ms Gwen Cherne | Veteran Family Advocate |
| Ms Libby Cremen | Director General, Defence Members and Families Support |
| Ms Pip Weiland | Defence People Group, Director General Mental Health and Wellbeing |
| **Presenters** | |
| Mr. Jon Wauer | Regional Director South Australia |
| Ms Brook Shearer | A/g Assistant Secretary, Clinical Operations – Open Arms |
|  | Community and Peer Advisor |
| **Secretariat** | |
| Ms Karen Humphreys | Executive Officer, Open Arms |
| Ms Megan Bennett | Executive Assistant, Open Arms |
| **Apologies** | |
| The Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite | Assistant Minister for Veterans’ Affairs |
| Ms Jane Pool | Social Worker |
| Ms Leonie Nowland | First Assistant Secretary - Open Arms |
| BRIG Caitlin Langford | Defence People Group, Director General Mental Health and Wellbeing |
| Mr. Andrew Kefford | Deputy Secretary, Policy & Programs Group DVA |