BALDWIN ADVOCACY & CLAIMS

# How to Make a DVA Claim in Australia

A no-bullshit guide to the DVA claims process
for current and former ADF members.

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## What is a DVA Claim?

A DVA claim is a formal application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to have a medical condition recognised as related to your military service. Once it's accepted, you get access to treatment, support, and compensation. That's it. That's the starting point for everything.

It doesn't matter whether you were Army, Navy, or Air Force. It doesn't matter whether you're still serving or you got out years ago. If your conditions are connected to your service, you may be eligible.

## Who Can Make a DVA Claim?

You don't need to be discharged. Seriously. Both currently serving ADF members and veterans who've already separated can lodge claims. Your eligibility comes down to your service history and the conditions you're claiming for.

> Don't wait until you're out. Lodging while you're still serving means easier access to Defence medical records and a head start on getting your entitlements sorted before transition.

## The DVA Claims Process

### 1. Identify Your Conditions

This is where most people sell themselves short. Think about every single physical and mental health condition that could be connected to your service. Dodgy knees, busted shoulders, hearing loss, tinnitus, PTSD, anxiety, depression, skin conditions from living in the field. All of it. Don't downplay it and don't leave shit on the table.

### 2. Gather Supporting Evidence

You need medical evidence that links your conditions to your service. That means GP reports, specialist reports, and your service medical records. This is where a lot of claims fall over. A half-arsed submission with weak evidence is going to get knocked back. A well-prepared claim with strong supporting evidence has a much better chance.

### 3. Lodge Your Claim

Claims go to DVA through the MyService portal or paper forms. You'll need your personal details, the conditions you're claiming, and all your supporting medical evidence. Get it right the first time.

### 4. DVA Assessment

DVA reviews your claim, your service records, and your medical evidence. They might ask for more info or send you for additional assessments. Processing times vary, and honestly, it can take a while. Months, sometimes longer.

### 5. Decision

DVA will either accept or reject your claim. If accepted, your condition is officially recognised as service-related and you

unlock access to treatment and potentially further compensation through Permanent Impairment claims.

*Kai Baldwin, Founder of Baldwin Advocacy & Claims*

## Mistakes I See All the Time

Not claiming everything at once. I can't tell you how many veterans come to me having only claimed one or two things when they've got a dozen conditions that are clearly service-related. Don't be that person.

Submitting with weak evidence. This is probably the biggest one. DVA isn't going to accept your claim on vibes. You need proper medical evidence, and it needs to clearly link your condition to your service.

Giving up after a knockback. A declined claim is not the end of the road. It can often be reviewed or appealed with better evidence. Don't let one rejection stop you from getting what you're owed.

> BAC Tip: A thorough review of your full service history almost always reveals conditions you hadn't thought about claiming. This is the first thing I do during a free consult. You'd be surprised what comes out of that conversation.

## How BAC Can Help

I manage the entire DVA claims process for you. Identifying all your eligible conditions, coordinating medical evidence, preparing your claim, lodging it, and chasing DVA until a decision is made. I've done this thousands of times and I know what works.

BAC charges a fixed fee. You know what it costs before we start, and 100% of your entitlement goes to you. No

percentage cuts, no surprises. That's how it should be.

# Ready to Get Started?

Book a free, no-obligation chat with me.
No sales pitch, no pressure. Just a straight conversation about your situation and what you might be entitled to.

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*Your entitlements belong to you.*