

I am an Occupational Therapist who provides OT services to the Veteran Community in Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and the Capricorn Coast. I have been a private provider for DVA for 15 years (since January 2004). I provide assessment and interventions through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program and refer clients to DVA services such as Veterans' Home Care.

From my clinical experience the areas of need I have identified are the following:

- Transport . DVA provides transport for medical travel . However, there is a need for transport to allow community access for Veteran's no longer able to drive. (For example, Veteran's home care is unable to take Veterans to do their shopping ). Driver retirement can have a significant impact on Veterans and this is particularly evident in non-metropolitan and rural areas where there is limited public transport options.
- Garden maintenance/ mowing - As Veterans age, many experience difficulty in managing their garden maintenance and mowing. Veterans' Home Care does not provide assistance here (except for occasional safety related garden maintenance- VHCS does not provide any subsidy/ funding for regular mowing/ yard maintenance). The lack of assistance with mowing/ yard maintenance is definitely the area I receive the most complaints from Veterans.
- Coordinated Veteran's Care Program- I work closely with a registered nurse who is employed by a Medical centre on the Capricorn Coast under the CVC Program. From my experience the Veteran's who are part of this CVC Program are receiving far better health care and are linked to the appropriate Allied Health staff and services. This is a valuable program - my concern is there appears to be many medical centres/ GPs who are not utilising the CVC Program and therefore many Veterans who do not have access to the benefits of this program.

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Occupational Therapist