

# **SAMVO Principles and Guidelines on the treatment of War-Caused Injuries.**

## **SAMVO**



**South African  
Military Veterans Organisation**

**Updated January, 2022**

V1.2.220117

### ***SAMVO's dedication, motto and inspiration:***

*This Veteran Organisation, through its subordinate organisations, globally, dedicates itself, in grateful recognition and memory of our countrymen, the Immortal Dead of South Africa, who, at the call of duty, made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of Africa, Europe and Asia, on land, at sea and in the air.*

***Their ideal is our legacy, their sacrifice our inspiration***

<b>Version</b>	<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Version Release</b>	<b>Revision Effective Date</b>
3	Veteran Tony Macquet MMM	Updated to SAMVO as V1.2. 220117	17 Jan 2022
2	Veteran Pierre van Blommestein	Appendix A deleted; definition of War-Caused added.	2 August, 2016
1	Veteran Pierre van Blommestein	Original SAMVOA draft	8 April 2016

	<b>Regulation Amendment</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Para</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b>1</b>	Draft of original document. Circulated for comment and agreement. Adjustments made.	Complete document.	All.	April 2016
<b>2</b>	Document updated due to name change from SAMVOINT to SAMVO.	Complete document	All.	January 2022

### Preamble:

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide principles and guidelines for the identification and facilitation of treatment options in regard to physical, emotional and mental injuries incurred by SAMVO members during the course of their military service in the SADF/SAP // SANDF/SAPS

#### 2. Scope

This policy is part of the Welfare initiative within SAMVO, and applies to all bona-fide members of SAMVO.

It is not intended that this policy apply to persons other than members of SAMVO.

#### 3. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

SAMVO	South African Military Veterans Organisation
CPTSD	Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Members	Persons deemed to be bona-fide members of the organisation, as defined in the SAMVO Constitution.
SADF/SANDF	South African Defence Force, as operational up to 1994 and then replaced by the South African National Defence Force.
SAP/S	South African Police, as operational up to 1994 and then replaced by the South African Police Service.
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as defined by the Australian Medical Association (DSM IV pp. 424 – 429)
Military Service	Includes any service in the SADF/SANDF/SAP/S that was officially authorised by the South African Government, including National Service, Volunteer service, and Permanent Force
DVA	Department of Veterans Affairs, Commonwealth of Australia
DMV	Department of Military Veterans, Republic of South Africa
TIP	Training and Information Programme
War-caused Injury	An injury or disease resulting from, or attributable to, military service
Professional	A person qualified in their area of knowledge or expertise

Office-bearer	A member of SAMVO who fills a recognised position in the organisation.
---------------	--

#### 4. Legal Disclaimer

SAMVO does not purport to be a provider of medical or psychological services. Neither SAMVO, nor any of its office-bearers, bears any responsibility for the medical or psychological treatment of members. While SAMVO and its office-bearers may endeavour to identify appropriate treatment resources on behalf of its members, and make these resources known to its members through various internal media, it remains the sole responsibility of the individual member to choose relevant treatment in conjunction with a qualified medical professional.

Where SAMVO members are qualified medical professionals, and may enter a therapeutic arrangement with fellow members, they do so as independent medical professionals, and not under the auspices of SAMVO.

#### 5. Definition of “War-Caused Injuries”

The Australian “Veterans Entitlement Act” of 1986 states generally that an injury suffered by a veteran shall be taken to be a war-caused injury, or a disease contracted by a veteran shall be taken to be a war-caused disease, if:

- the injury suffered, or disease contracted, by the veteran resulted from an occurrence that happened while the veteran was rendering operational service, or
- the injury suffered, or disease contracted arose out of, or was attributable to, any eligible war service rendered by the veteran

#### 6. Treatment of War-Caused Injuries

It is the intention of SAMVO, through its national and regional welfare structures, to identify appropriate medical health professionals, whose qualifications and experience are commensurate with the acknowledged physical and psychological effects of military service (war-caused injury), and to make these resources known to its members through various communication media, including meetings, newsletters, SAMVO website, and the SAMVO Facebook group.

##### 6.1. Internal Resources

SAMVO will search its own membership for medical health professionals, and make known to its membership the services provided by these professional members.

##### 6.2. Associated Resources

SAMVO will identify in the local community those medical health professionals who are willing to become associated with SAMVO as recognised service providers to the members of the organisation.

##### 6.3. Government Resources

SAMVO encourages its members to register with DVA and acquire the DVA White Card for any injuries or conditions caused by their military service in the former SADF/SANDEF/SAPS.

*It is to be noted that treatment options available to SAMVO members through Australian or New Zealand Government veteran agencies are governed by the conditions of the Five-Nation Treatment of Veterans Agreement (see Appendix A)*

##### 6.4. Preferential Rates of Service

Where SAMVO establishes a service agreement with an associated medical professional, SAMVO will endeavour to negotiate a preferential rate for its members.

**6.5. Appropriate Service Providers**

SAMVO acknowledges that not all medical practitioners are qualified, skilled or experienced appropriately to be a suitable service provider to SAMVO members, with regard to the specific and unique needs of military veterans.

SAMVO will establish the professional credentials and experience of a medical practitioner as being appropriate to the needs of military veterans before advertising the services of the service provider to its members.

**7. Roles and Responsibilities****7.1. SAMVO Executive**

The SAMVO Executive is responsible for the management of the organisation, which includes provision of support and assistance to members where the capacity exists within the organisation, but not including provision of professional treatment for medical conditions or community/home assistance.

**7.2. SAMVO Welfare Officers**

SAMVO Welfare Officers are volunteers who provide assistance and support to members where possible, and within their capacity. This support may include identification of medical and social support systems in the local community, and the communication of this information to members.

**7.3. SAMVO Regional Chairpersons**

The SAMVO Regional Chairpersons are responsible for the management of the organisation within a State/Territory, which includes provision of support and assistance to members where the capacity exists within the region, but not including provision of professional treatment for medical conditions or community/home assistance.

**7.4. SAMVO Members**

It is the sole responsibility of SAMVO members to make known their needs and actively seek appropriate support and treatment, whether this is through SAMVO welfare structures or directly with medical/social welfare professionals.

**8. Requesting Treatment**

There are a number of ways in which a SAMVO member can obtain required treatment and support:

1. Visit the local GP and request treatment for a specific medical condition.
2. Visit the local GP and request a Mental Health Treatment Plan, which entitles the patient to ten visits to a psychologist or psychiatrist.  
([https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/0F792912834609B4CA257BF0001B74FA/\\$File/patients2.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/0F792912834609B4CA257BF0001B74FA/$File/patients2.pdf))
3. Contact a SAMVO Welfare Officer and request assistance in finding appropriate medical help.
4. Contact the SAMVO Regional Chairperson and request assistance in finding appropriate medical help.
5. Visit the local Centrelink office and request information on available assistance.

**9. Training and Support**

9.1. Through the Welfare portfolio, SAMVO will access appropriate training for and equipping of regional welfare officers. Training in the welfare role is available for SAMVO welfare officers through the DVA Training and Information Programme (TIP).

9.2. SAMVO provides support and information regarding treatment opportunities through regional welfare officers, newsletters, the SAMVO website, and the SAMVO Facebook group. This support and material are for information purposes only, and it remains the responsibility of individual members to access appropriate treatment for any injuries or conditions.

## 10. References

**Australian DVA 'Training and Information Training' (TIP) for Welfare Officers**

<http://www.dva.gov.au/consultation-and-grants/grants/training-and-information-program-tip>

**Department of Military Veterans, Republic of South Africa**

<http://www.dmv.gov.za/>

**Factsheet HSV61 - DVA Health Card — For Specific Conditions (White)**

<http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/>

**Factsheet HSV62 - Commonwealth and Other Allied Veterans Living in Australia**

<http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/>

**Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Ed. (DSM IV) pp.424-429**

<https://justines2010blog.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/dsm-iv.pdf>

**Govt heeds AMA on veteran health**, article 24 June 2014, Australian Medical Association

<https://ama.com.au/ausmed/govt-heeds-ama-veteran-health>

**Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 - Sect 9**

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/vea1986261/s9.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/vea1986261/s9.html)

**Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia website**

[http://www.vvaa.org.au/experience.htm#POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER \(PTSD\)](http://www.vvaa.org.au/experience.htm#POSTTRAUMATIC_STRESS_DISORDER_(PTSD))

**War Related Illness and Injury Study Centre**

<http://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/WARRELATEDILLNESS/education/index.asp>

## APPENDIX A

**Five Nation Agreement for Treatment of Veterans**

“The Australian Government has agreements with several countries that allow DVA to provide treatment to ex-service personnel who have disabilities that have been accepted as war caused by the country you enlisted with. “(Factsheet HSV62)

**1 Australian Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)****1.1 DVA Health Card Eligibility**

A veteran will receive a DVA White Card if –

- The veteran served with United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, or South Africa
- The disability or medical condition has been accepted as war-caused by the country in which the veteran was enlisted
- The veteran meets any other eligibility criteria set by the veteran’s home country, such as degree of impairment or time periods for emigration.

**1.2 DVA White Card Treatment**

The SAMVO veteran is able to receive the full range of treatment services that are available to Australian veterans for the disabilities that the country of enlistment has advised their veterans are covered for.

Note: The SAMVO veteran is not entitled to non-liability health care which only covers veterans of Australian forces.

**1.3 Applying for a DVA White Card**

If a SAMVO veteran considers that he/she has a disability/injury/condition which results from war service, they should contact the local DVA, and Officers of DVA will be able to assist in completing any relevant application forms that are required by the relevant overseas government the veteran served with.

**2 South African Department of Military Veterans (DMV)****2.1 Requirements to qualify for benefits under South African DMV regulations**

The general eligibility requirements state:

“A military veteran qualifies for one or more benefits provided for in the Act and these regulations if he or she:

- (a) meets the criteria prescribed in these regulations for the benefit applied for; and
- (b) is listed in the national military veterans’ data base.”

(See <http://www.dmv.gov.za/benefits/requirements.htm>)

**2.2 Criteria for counselling and treatment for mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder**

“(1) A military veteran or his or her dependant qualifies for dedicated counselling and treatment for serious mental illness or post-traumatic stress disorder if the mental illness or post-traumatic stress disorder was caused by his or her participation in military activities or is associated with his or her participation therein.

(2) The dedicated counselling and treatment for serious mental illness or post-traumatic stress disorder contemplated in sub regulation (1) must be conducted at a public health care facility, but may also be conducted at a private health care facility when a public health care facility is unable to conduct the counselling and treatment or a private health care facility is the only facility accessible in

the area.”

(See <http://www.dmv.gov.za/benefits/criteria-for-counseling.htm>)

### 2.3 Compensation for injury, trauma and disease

“(1) A military veteran who sustained disabling injuries or severe psychological and neuro-psychiatric trauma or who suffers from a terminal disease resulting from participation in military activities, may apply for a lump sum payment as compensation if:

(a) the disabling injury;

(b) the severe psychological and neuro-psychiatric trauma; or

(c) the terminal disease, resulted from the military veteran's participation in military activities and-

(i) the effect of such disability, trauma or disease is an on-going event;

(ii) the medical assessment of the military veteran confirms the link between the injury, trauma or disease and his or her participation in a military activity; and

(iii) the military veteran has not accessed or received a similar benefit in terms of any other legislation.

(2) The medical assessment contemplated in sub regulation (1) must be conducted at a public health care facility, but may also be conducted at a private health care facility when a public health care facility is unable to conduct the medical assessment services or a private health care facility is the only facility accessible in the area.”

(See <http://www.dmv.gov.za/benefits/compensation-for-injury-trauma-disease.htm>)

### 2.4 Criteria to qualify for access to health care

(1) Subject to sub regulation 3 (see section 2.3 above), a military veteran qualifies for health care services, at the expense of the State, at a public or private health care facility in the Republic if he or she:

•(a) is not employed and receives a pension from the State; or

•(b) is employed but-

- (i) does not qualify for a medical aid subsidy from his or her employer; or

- (ii) the military veteran's medical aid cover is not sufficient owing to the status of his or her health.

(2) A military veteran who in terms of sub regulation (1) qualifies for health care services may in accordance with regulation 19 apply to the Department for such health care services.

(3) The health care services contemplated in sub regulation (1) must be conducted at a public health care facility, but may also be conducted at a private health care facility when a public health care facility is unable to conduct the health care services or a private health care facility is the only facility accessible in the area.

### 2.5 Application process

(1) A military veteran or his or her representative may, subject to regulation 7(2), apply for a military veterans benefit by completing the appropriate application form at an office of the Department, or at any other place designated by the Department, in the presence of an official designated by the Department.

(2) The designated official must assist the military veteran or his or her representative to complete the application form if he or she is, for whatever reason, unable to do so.

(3) The application form must be accompanied by all the documents contemplated in regulation 20.

(4) The designated official together with another designated official must certify that the application requirements have been complied with.

(5) The Department must furnish the military veteran or his or her representative with an acknowledgement of receipt which must:

- (a) be dated and stamped with the official stamp of the Department;
- (b) reflect the name and identity number of the military veteran; and
- (c) reflect the names of the designated officials.