

# Physiotherapy in Veterans' Care

Action is needed to improve access



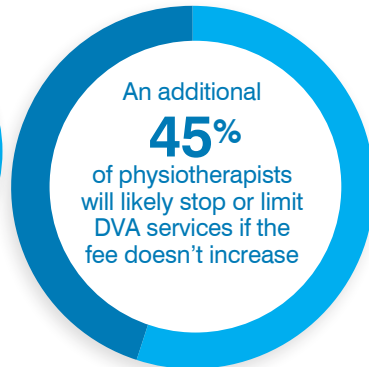
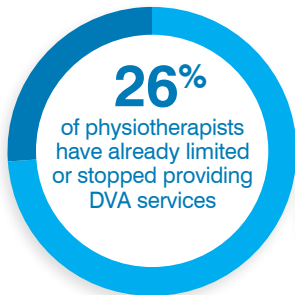
The current Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) fee schedule remunerates physiotherapists substantially below their standard prices. Our member survey highlights the significant impact this has on access to veterans' care.

## DVA FEES CHALLENGE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES FOR VETERANS

### DVA services are not viable

**98%** of physiotherapists surveyed reported that the DVA fee is less than the cost of their standard in-rooms physiotherapy service – 52% of these take at least a \$40 pay-cut per DVA service provided.

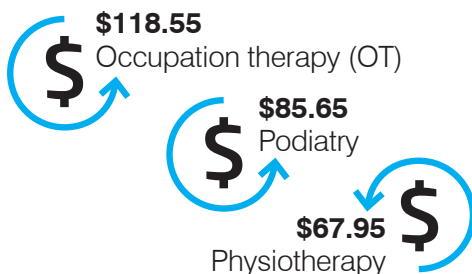
**91.5%** state that the DVA fee per physiotherapy service does not allow them to sustainably continue providing care for veterans.



- Physiotherapists are passionate about veterans' health and believe that veterans have the right to choose their physiotherapist, however, without a significant fee increase, the pool of providers to choose from will continue to reduce.
- Physiotherapists are currently providing unviable DVA services out of sincere care for veterans.
- **Fee increases will enable veterans to access the best providers and the best care.**

## LEAVING PHYSIOTHERAPY BEHIND LEAVES VETERANS BEHIND

Occupational therapy and podiatry have a notably higher fee-for-service than physiotherapy:



### Physiotherapists are strongly concerned by DVA fee disparities

**98%** of physiotherapists report that they are **strongly concerned** by the fee disparity between OT, podiatry and physiotherapy.

**79%** indicated that the current physiotherapy fee negatively impacts veterans' access to physiotherapy services.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUSTAIN AND SUPPORT VETERANS' CARE

The APA recommends that DVA adopt an urgent fee increase for:

- initial physiotherapy in-rooms consultations to at least \$118.55 (parity with occupational therapy); and
- subsequent in-rooms consultations to at least \$85.65 (parity with podiatry).

**Source:** Assessment of physiotherapist experiences and impact on practice viability in veterans' care. APA Member Survey. April 2023