

# Appendix A

## Overview of the main interventions for clusters of mental health problems

### How interventions are applied to clusters of common mental health problems experienced by veterans

|  | Depression  | Anxiety   | PTSD   | Substance Use  | Somatic Symptoms   | Complicated Grief  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Elements   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Psychoeducation advice and motivation<br>Provide feedback on your assessment and in collaboration with your client develop a case formulation and treatment plan |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Self-monitoring  | Mood and activity diary   | Subjective Units of Discomfort (SUDS) in feared and/or avoided situations   | Subjective Units of Discomfort (SUDS) in feared and/or avoided situations and in confronting trauma memory                         | Substance use diary  | Physical wellbeing and events diary  |  |
| Set realistic/collaborative goals  | Increased frequency and duration of pleasant productive activities  | Overcome avoidance and fear of selected situations  | Overcome avoidance and fear of selected situations and intrusive memories  | Reduce substance consumed - when, where, how much  | Reduce illness related behaviours including unnecessary medical investigations                             | Process memories associated with the loss, and re-engage with the world  |
| Anxiety/arousal management   | Progressive muscle relaxation, breathing retraining, distraction techniques, self-instruction training                        |   |  |  |  |  |
| Activity scheduling  | A programmed routine of activities designed to increase contact with pleasant events and with social and occupational support |   |  |  |  |  |
| Graded exposure  | For depression, activity scheduling is designed to promote exposure to pleasant and productive events                         | Imaginal or <i>in vivo</i> contact with feared and/or avoided situations until the anxiety subsides (social situations, reminders and memories of the trauma, being away from home) | Imaginal or <i>in vivo</i> contact with feared high risk situations until craving subsides (e.g., drinking venues, watching sport) | <i>In vivo</i> , specifically cue exposure, with high risk situations until craving subsides (e.g., drinking venues, watching sport) | With anxiety-related somatic concerns, sustained imaginal or <i>in vivo</i> contact with feared situations | For loss that occurred in traumatic circumstances, imaginal exposure to story of loss, and <i>in vivo</i> for avoided situations |

|                                    | Depression   | Anxiety   | PTSD   | Substance Use   | Somatic Symptoms  | Complicated Grief  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Cognitive therapy                  | Challenging hopelessness, self-loathing and other-loathing   | Challenging of the negative and catastrophic beliefs that trigger anxiety | Challenging of unhelpful trauma-related beliefs, especially for those that evoke guilt/anger | Challenging thoughts related to situations that trigger substance use         | Challenge unhelpful thoughts about symptoms and disease | Challenging unhelpful thoughts related to the loss, e.g., guilt-related                                |
| Skills training                    | Use skills training as necessary. Individual, family and group training using modelling, behavioural rehearsal and feedback to acquire or modify skills including social skills, structured problem solving, environmental, interpersonal relationship and child rearing skills.       |   |  |   |   |  |
| Relapse prevention                 | Summarise therapy content and gains, then identify internal and external relapse triggers (e.g., family conflict), early warning signs (e.g., feelings of low mood) and available coping skills (e.g., anxiety management strategies). Use this information to develop a relapse plan. |   |  |   |   |  |
| Other intervention elements        |  |   |  |   |   |  |
| Other interventions                | Interpersonal therapy  |   |  | Motivational interviewing, behavioural couples therapy, withdrawal management |   | Imagined conversations with the deceased, evoking happy memories, and exploring regrets and resentment |
| Social/occupational/rehabilitation | Promoting return as soon as possible to valued social and occupational roles by supporting negotiations with employers and families to set challenging but realistic expectations. Consider rehabilitation from beginning of treatment.  |   |  |   |   |  |
| Medical care                       | Identify and treat underlying physical pathology or contributing factors (e.g., cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological)   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Pharmacotherapies                  | Newer antidepressants (e.g., SSRI, SNRI). Avoid benzodiazepines.   |   |  | Dependant on substance being used   | Newer antidepressants (e.g., SSRI, SNRI)                | Newer antidepressants (e.g., SSRI, SNRI)   |

Source: Adapted from Peard and Marshall (2006)