



Veterans' Review Board

Practice Direction No 1 of 2014 Oral Reasons

Effective: 9 March 2015

1. The purpose of this practice direction is to enable VRB Senior Members to provide oral reasons for decision, following a hearing, where the decision is favourable to the applicant.
2. The VRB, under its legislation, must give reasons for its decision. It may decide to give oral or written reasons for its final decision.
3. Pursuant to section 142(2) of the VEA, the Principal Member may, give directions as to the procedure and operations of the VRB generally and the conduct of reviews by the VRB.
4. As such, the Principal Member directs that the VRB may only give oral reasons for its decision, where the decision is favourable to the applicant. The oral reasons will be delivered by the Senior Member of the panel, following a short adjournment of the hearing.
5. If the VRB gives oral reasons, ordinarily the panel will be required to prepare and sign its decision during the adjournment to enable registry to provide a copy of the decision to the parties, immediately following the delivery of oral reasons. In some circumstances, the decision may not be provided on the day of the hearing, but it must be published as soon as possible. For example, in some regional hearing locations where oral reasons are given, the decision will not be provided to the parties on the day, but it will be sent to the parties as soon as possible.
6. Further, if the VRB gives oral reasons a party may request a copy of a digital recording of the oral reasons OR may request the VRB to give written reasons.
7. A request for a copy of a digital recording can be made by contacting the VRB by phone, email or mail.
8. A request for written reasons must be made in writing and set out the grounds as to why written reasons are required. The request must be made within 28 days from the date upon which the decision was given and the request must be lodged at a VRB registry.
9. The VRB must ensure that decisions are handed down, and reasons given, as expeditiously as possible.

Doug Humphreys

Doug Humphreys
Principal Member
9 March 2015