

Royal New Zealand RSA Survey – **DUE 30 SEPTEMBER**

1. **Veterans Support Act:** Does your party support changes to the Veterans Support Act 2014? If so, what would you like to see changed, particularly when it comes to fair access to support for different generations of veterans

The Green Party supports changes to the Veterans' Support Act 2014, including an independent review. We want to see fairer access to support across generations of veterans, including addressing the Scheme One/Scheme Two divide, modern service-related health consequences, and support for whānau.

2. **Eligibility for Support:** What is your party's position on who should be eligible for government-funded veteran support, and on the difference between being recognised as a veteran and qualifying for support under the Veterans Support Act?

The Green Party believes government support should be available where military service has caused or contributed to a person's needs, and eligibility settings should be fair and transparent. Recognition as a veteran is important in its own right, but access to statutory support should be based on service-related need rather than technical exclusions.

3. **Veterans Affairs:** What would your party do to make sure Veterans Affairs has the people, funding and resources it needs to provide veterans and their whānau with timely and effective support?

The Green Party supports ensuring Veterans' Affairs has the staffing, funding, expertise and accountability needed to provide timely and effective support. We also support consideration of governance and external oversight so veterans and whānau can have confidence that the system is transparent, responsive and consistent with the law.

4. **Health and mental health:** What would your party do to improve access to physical and mental-health support for veterans, particularly where an illness or injury is linked to military service?

The Green Party would support better access to physical and mental-health support where illness or injury is linked to military service, including clearer pathways, faster decisions and stronger information. We would support considering a modern presumptive or scheduled-conditions framework where credible evidence links contemporary service exposures to health conditions.

5. **Transition from service:** How would your party support NZDF personnel as they move from military service into civilian life, including with employment, health, housing, financial wellbeing and access to support?

The Green Party supports a minimum transition standard for everyone leaving the NZDF, including short-serving personnel. This should include clear information about entitlements, health and mental-health screening, employment and housing support where needed, financial guidance, and follow-up after discharge so people do not fall through gaps.

6. **Older veterans and independence:** What is your party's position on helping older veterans, and veterans living with impairment, to stay independent and connected with their communities

The Green Party supports helping older veterans and veterans living with impairment to remain independent, connected and supported in their communities. That means fair access to practical assistance, health and rehabilitation services, community-based support, and clear information for veterans and whānau.

7. **Families and Whānau:** How would your party recognise and support families and whānau where military service has had an ongoing impact on them?

The Green Party recognises that military service can have lasting impacts on families and whānau, and support should reflect that reality. We would support better information, navigation, mental-health and wellbeing support, and whānau-inclusive approaches where service-related needs affect the wider household.

8. **Recognition of service:** Beyond commemorations and medals, what practical steps would your party support to recognise the particular obligations, risks and consequences that come with military service?

The Green Party believes practical recognition means ensuring fair support, decent conditions for those serving now, effective transition, and responsive services for veterans and whānau.

9. **Listening to veterans:** How would your party make sure veterans and organisations supporting the veteran community have a genuine voice when government policy affecting veterans is developed?

The Green Party supports genuine engagement with veterans, whānau and organisations that work with the veteran community when policy is developed or reviewed. We would expect veterans voices to be captured in any government policy that affects veterans.

10. **Your top priority:** If your party forms, or is part of, the next Government, what is the single most important change you would like to make for New Zealand veterans during the next parliamentary term?

Our top priority would be to support an independent review of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 and the wider veterans' support system, with a focus on fairness, access, accountability and long-term support for veterans and whānau.