



REMEMBRANCE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

3 September 2026

Tēnā koe,

2026 General Election – veterans’ policy

With the General Election approaching, the Royal New Zealand RSA is keen to help veterans, their whānau and our supporters understand what each political party is offering the veteran community.

Veterans’ issues do not always get much attention during an election campaign, but they matter enormously to the people who have served New Zealand and to the families who have supported them.

We are writing to each political party with the same set of questions, so we can provide the veteran community with a fair and straightforward comparison of where the parties stand.

The RNZRSA is proudly non-partisan and will not be endorsing or ranking parties. Our aim is simply to make good information available so veterans and supporters can consider the policies for themselves.

We would really appreciate your party’s views on the following:

1. Veterans’ Support Act 2014

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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7. Families and whānau

How would your party recognise and support families and whānau where military service has had an ongoing impact on them?

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?

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?

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?

To help us present everyone's responses in a consistent way, we would appreciate answers of no more than 200 words per question, returned by 30 September 2026. We would also welcome any defence or veteran policy documents you may have prepared for the upcoming election.

We may publish the responses through the RNZRSA's website and other communications ahead of the election.

We will make every effort to present each party's position fairly and accurately.

If there is an important part of your veterans' policy that we have not covered in these questions, please feel free to include a short additional statement.

Thanks for taking the time to respond. We appreciate the opportunity to give veterans and their whānau a clearer picture of what each party is proposing ahead of the election.

Ngā mihi,

James A. (Tony) Hill

National President

Royal New Zealand RSA