



New Zealand
**VETERANS'
AFFAIRS**
Te Tira Ahu Ika A Whiro



Veterans' Support Act 2014 Scheme One



THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Veterans Support Act 2014



What will today's presentation contain?

- *What the Act allows Veterans' Affairs to do for veterans*
- *Two components of the Act which are:*
 - *Entitlements*
 - *Services*

What today's presentation will not contain

- *Details regarding Scheme Two*
- *Details on how the Veterans Independence Programme will work*

Entitlements



Entitlements are pension and lump sum payments

- These include:
 - Grand-parented War Disablement Pension
 - Disablement Pension
 - Weekly Income Compensation
 - Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension
 - Children’s Pension
 - Children’s Bursary
 - Dependant’s Pension
 - Veteran’s Pension
 - Motor Vehicle Grant
 - Retirement Lump Sum and
 - Funeral Expenses.

Services



Services are various forms of assistance available to veterans (and in some cases family members) who meet specific criteria.

- These include:
 - Treatment
 - Social rehabilitation
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Assistance towards travel costs and ancillary services associated with treatment and rehabilitation
 - Veterans' Independence Programme (will be introduced 7 Dec 2015)
- Under Scheme One only, this also includes
 - Attendant Allowance
 - Clothing Allowance
 - Travel Allowance
 - Recreational Travel Concession

What is a “Your Plan”



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- Our goal is that every veteran will have a Your Plan
 - The Your Plan will record the entitlements and services that Veterans' Affairs has agreed to provide to a veteran.
 - Where a veteran needs treatment and/or rehabilitation, the objective behind a Your Plan is to ensure that the veteran and Veterans' Affairs are working together to meet a veterans goals in these areas.
 - The plan will detail the steps agreed to between the veteran and Veterans Affairs to assist a veteran in meeting their treatment, social or vocational rehabilitation goals.
 - A Your Plan can range from very simple to complex depending on a veteran's circumstances.



Entitlements

War Disablement Pension



What is happening with the War Disablement Pension?

- From 7 December 2014, applications for a War Disablement Pension were no longer accepted.
- A veteran who received a War Disablement Pension before 7 December 2014 will **continue to do so** until they apply for a re-assessment or they ask to be transferred to Disablement Pension.
- The **payment rate of a permanent War Disablement Pension will be grand-parented** it will not be reduced*.
- All allowances the veteran was receiving, including the Travel Concession and Travel Allowance, Attendant Allowance and Clothing Allowance, will also be grand-parented until the Veterans' Independence Programme is introduced on 7 Dec 2015.
- These allowances and concession will be rolled into the Veterans' Independence Programme.

What is 'grand-parenting?'



Grand-parented - whatever rate of payment associated with accepted permanent disabilities will remain the same, it cannot be decreased.

Note: War Disablement Pension rates are CPI adjusted each year.

What Triggers a Transfer?



A veteran who is on a War Disablement Pension can remain on the War Disablement Pension indefinitely or until at least one of the following occur

- a new service or an aid or appliance is requested for which a veteran must have an entitlement to under Scheme one in order to qualify
- An application for a new condition or reassessment of a current condition is made

A veteran may apply for treatment for a new condition, without transferring to Disablement Pension.

What is the Disablement Pension?



The Disablement Pension:

- **replaces** the War Disablement Pension .
- is for veterans who are found to be affected by a disablement caused or aggravated by a **service-related injury, illness or condition** occurring before 1 April 1974 (temporarily covers all qualifying service until Scheme Two commences).
- is granted on a **permanent or temporary basis**.
- if temporary, will need to be accompanied by a **rehabilitation plan** (Your Plan) which the veteran will participate in unless, through no fault of their own, they are assessed as being unable to.
- Has the same eligibility criteria as the War Disablement Pension

Disablement Pension continued



The Disablement Pension:

- **does not affect any other social assistance or income** a veteran may receive, including ACC. For example, under Scheme one a veteran can receive both a Disablement Pension and ACC compensation for the same or different injuries, illnesses or conditions.

Practice Scenarios – Disablement Pension



1. Suzy served in the Gulf Conflict, returning home in March 1991. In January 1991, while deployed, she was diagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome.
 - *Is Suzy eligible for the Disablement Pension? Why or why not?*
2. Ronny is receiving a War Disablement Pension of 115%. He has recently noticed that his already accepted arthritis in his left hip is deteriorating and he is thinking about getting this reassessed by Veterans' Affairs.
 - *Is Ronny eligible for Disablement Pension? Why or why not?*
 - *What will happen to Ronny's WDP if he applies for a reassessment of his hip? What happens if the review reveals that there has been no change to the status of Ronny's hip?*
3. Mike injured his arm gardening last week and has rung to discuss his application for a Disablement Pension.
 - *Is Mike eligible for the Disablement Pension? Why or why not?*

Decision Making



Veterans' Affairs will use a number of tools to assess applications under the new act:

Statements of Principles – are a list of conditions which are deemed to possibly occur as a result of service. Each condition includes a list of factors. In order for a condition to be accepted, one of the factors must be met for the injury, illness or condition to be recognised as service-related.

Conclusively Presumed conditions (Presumptive List) – this allows for the automatic acceptance of certain injuries, illnesses or conditions as service-related for veterans who have served in specific deployments. Eg; J Force, Vietnam,

AMA Guides – these are used to determine the individual rate of impairment for each accepted injury, illness or condition and combine those rates into a whole-person impairment rating of up to 100%

Disablement Pension and rehabilitation



The purpose of rehabilitation is to assist veterans, as much as possible, to return to their pre-illness or injury state and, where appropriate, help veterans get back to work.

- Two types of rehabilitation are provided:
 - **Social rehabilitation** - to help restore a veteran's independence to the maximum extent practicable.
 - **Vocational rehabilitation** - to help a veteran continue working; regain work or acquire an ability to work.

Reassessing a Permanent Disablement Pension



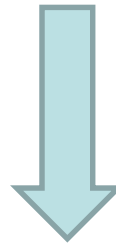
If a Disablement Pension is granted on a permanent basis, a reassessment cannot occur until the earlier of either **two years after**:

- the veteran's Disablement Pension became permanent; or
 - the veteran's last whole-person impairment assessment.
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- A **reassessment may be undertaken earlier** if the veteran provides medical evidence that supports a **10% change in the whole-person impairment rating**.

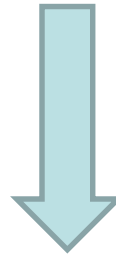
Claim and Review Process



Decision Officer



Review Officer



Veterans Entitlements Appeal Board


Stopping and starting the clock




- When assessing applications, Veterans' Affairs must make a decision on reasonable grounds and in a timely manner.
- Veterans' Affairs is considered to be performing in a timely manner if it has made a decision on an application within 30 working days of receiving it.
- The 30 working day statutory timeframe only applies to initial decisions on applications. **It does not apply to reviews or appeals.**
- While in the process of making a decision, Veterans' Affairs may notify the claimant and request additional information. Once the claimant is notified, the clock will stop while Veterans' Affairs waits for the information to be provided.

Stopping and starting the clock




 **Start** - Once Veterans' Affairs receives a completed application, the clock will start.

 **Stop** - If it is determined that additional information is required in order to either process an application or reach a decision, the clock will stop until the necessary information is received.

The veteran will be contacted and the date on the letter is the date from which the clock will stop.

 **Start** - Once the additional information is received the clock will start again from the date the information is received.

 **Stop** - The clock will stop once the claimant has been notified of the decision and the date on the letter is the date from which the clock will stop.

Lets Practice



Lets take a closer look at the Claims Process.

How will Veterans' Affairs deal with the following scenarios under the new 2014 Act? What happens to the '30 working day clock'?

- A Veteran applies for the Disablement Pension but forgets to sign the application form.
- A Veteran applies for the Disablement Pension with Hearing Loss, Tinnitus and Anxiety, the application form is complete.
- The wife of a veteran applies for the Surviving Spouse and Partner Pension. The veteran has not previously received any assistance from Veterans' Affairs.
- A deceased veteran's family member applies for Funeral Expenses.

Weekly Income Compensation



- Weekly Income Compensation (WIC) is an income support payment available to eligible veterans who are **unable to work full time** as a consequence of injury or illness – **does not have to be service-related**.
- WIC is paid fortnightly at a maximum rate of **80% of the gross average weekly wage** as at 1 April each year. This is defined in the Social Security Act 1964.
- WIC **will be reduced** if the veteran is able to work part-time and the combined sources of the veteran's earnings are more than 100% of the average weekly wage. E.g. if their earnings plus their Weekly Income Compensation payments together are more than 100% of the Average wage.
- As an income support payment, WIC is **subject to tax**.

Who is eligible for WIC?



A veteran is eligible for WIC if they:

- have qualifying service
- are younger than the qualifying age for NZ Superannuation
- are unable to work full-time as a consequence of injury or illness
- are not receiving any benefit under the Social Security Act 1964.

While receiving WIC veterans must also:

- be willing to participate in a rehabilitation plan (as outlined in the veterans Your Plan) unless, through no fault of their own, they are assessed as being unable to.
- periodically undergo a work readiness assessment.

What if a veteran is under 65 and receiving the Veteran's Pension?



Veterans who are under 65 and currently receiving the Veteran's Pension can **choose to apply for WIC at any time.**

What do they need to know?

- WIC is paid at 80% of the gross average weekly wage.
- WIC will also entitle them to **rehabilitation support and services**
- **WIC does not include spouses or partners**
- Recipients of WIC **cannot** receive Work and Income entitlements.
- This is a **one time only decision.** If their application is accepted they can't change their minds and go back to the Veteran's Pension until they reach 65.

What if the veteran receives income support from ACC or elsewhere?



- If the veteran is receiving support under the Accident Compensation Act 2001, or elsewhere, they **are not entitled** to receive full income compensation from Veterans' Affairs.
- However, Veterans' Affairs **can pay the difference** between the gross maximum amount of WIC payable and what the veteran receives from ACC or elsewhere.

What happens when a veteran receiving WIC turns 65?



There are several different scenarios to consider:

- 1.If the veteran has been receiving WIC for **more than 24 months** when they turn 65, WIC will stop immediately
- 2.If the veteran has been receiving WIC **for more than 12 months but less than 24 months** when they turn 65, WIC may continue until 24 months have passed since becoming entitled to WIC
- 3.If the veteran has been receiving WIC **for less than 12 months** when they turn 65, WIC will continue for another 12 months

What happens when a veteran is ready to return to work?



1. Entitlement to WIC will **stop 10 days after** receiving notification of the assessment if the veteran:
 - can return full-time to the same work they were employed in immediately before receiving WIC; and
 - has been receiving WIC for less than six months.
2. Entitlement to WIC will stop on the earlier of either their **return to full-time work, or 28 days after** receiving notification of the assessment if the veteran:
 - can return full-time to the same work they were employed in immediately before receiving WIC; and
 - has been receiving WIC for more than six months.
3. Entitlement to WIC will stop on the earlier of either their **return to full-time work, or 28 days after** receiving notification of the assessment if the veteran is assessed as being able to work full-time in other employment.

Practice Scenarios - WIC



1. Sam is 37 and recently returned from operational service in Afghanistan. Last week Sam broke both his legs mountain biking and can no longer work full time as a builder.
 - *Is Sam eligible for Weekly Income Compensation? Why or why not?*

2. Aimee is 43 and also served in Afghanistan. Since returning she has experienced depression and acute stress disorder. Aimee's doctor has recommended that she take some time off work to recover and focus on her counselling.
 - *Is Aimee eligible for Weekly Income Compensation? Why or why not?*
 - *What else could Aimee be entitled to?*

3. David is 68, no longer works and is currently receiving a Veteran's Pension. David has rung his Case Manager to discuss his application for Weekly Income Compensation.
 - *Is David eligible for Weekly Income Compensation? Why or why not?*

Retirement Lump Sum Payment



When a veteran turns 65 they may be entitled to receive a **one-off payment** to recognise the difficulty veterans on longer-term income support have had in saving for their retirement.

A veteran is eligible for a Retirement Lump Sum payment if they:

- turned 65 on or after 7 December 2014; and
- have received a qualifying form of income compensation for at least ten years prior; and
- meet relevant asset assessment thresholds.

The 10 year period **does not have to be consecutive**.

The Retirement Lump Sum payment is **subject to tax**, and is paid to the veteran.

Practice Scenarios – Retirement Lump Sum



1. Paul has been on a War Disablement Pension for the last 20 years. During this time he has been on a Veteran's Pension for the last 15 years. He turned 65 in January 2015.
 - *Is Paul eligible for a Retirement Lump Sum Payment? Why or why not?*
 - *What information does Paul need to provide to apply?*
 - *If Paul had moved to Canada in December 2014, would this mean he can't apply for a Retirement Lump Sum payment?*
2. Rachel has been on and off a Work and Income benefit for the last 20 years until 5 years ago when she was granted the Veteran's Pension. She is turning 65 on 20 December 2015.
 - *Is Rachel eligible for a Retirement Lump Sum Payment? Why or why not?*

Practice Scenarios – Retirement Lump Sum



3. Ethan has been in receipt of a Veteran's Pension for 10 years. He has completed the Retirement Lump Sum application form and provided evidence of his assets which total \$1.5m.
 - *Is Ethan eligible for a Retirement Lump Sum Payment? Why or why not?*
4. Julia has been on Weekly Income Compensation for 11 years. She is married and is turning 65 soon, so wants to apply for a Retirement Lump Sum. Before she does, she wants to know if she would qualify so calls her Case Manager. Julia advises Veterans' Affairs that their house is worth \$500,000 and they have a car worth \$40,000. All other assets are worth \$280,000.
 - *Would Julia qualify for a Retirement Lump Sum Payment? Why or why not?*
 - *In terms of the asset assessment, which threshold should Julia apply?*
 - *Julia also has jewellery worth \$10,000, should she include this as part of her asset assessment? Why or why not?*

What is the Terminal Lump Sum Payment?



- Veterans who have a **terminal service-related medical condition** will receive the Disablement Pension or War Disablement Pension paid at the maximum rate (the Terminal Pension Rate).
- Veterans who have a terminal service-related medical condition may also elect to suspend their pension payments and **receive a Terminal Lump Sum Payment.**
- The lump sum is a **one-off tax-free payment** equivalent to the total of the Disablement Pension or War Disablement Pension paid at the maximum rate over a 12 month period.

Who is eligible for the Terminal Lump Sum Payment?



A veteran is eligible for either the Terminal Pension Rate or Lump Sum Payment if they:

- ✓ are receiving a Disablement Pension or War Disablement Pension.
- ✓ have a terminal service-related medical condition.

A terminal medical condition is an advanced progressive disease likely to cause death within a 12-month period as certified by a medical practitioner.

The estate of a deceased veteran can not apply for a Terminal Lump Sum Payment.

Practice Scenarios – Terminal Lump Sum



Ashton is receiving a Disablement Pension for lymphoma. Following a visit with his specialist on 14 July 2015, Ashton is informed that his lymphoma is now considered terminal. Ashton decides to call his Case Manager.

- 1. Would Ashton be eligible for the Terminal Lump Sum payment? Why or why not?*
- 2. What information does Ashton need to provide if he decides to apply for the lump sum payment?*
- 3. What will happen to Ashton's current Disablement Pension if he is eligible for a Terminal Lump Sum?*

Practice Scenarios – Terminal Lump Sum



Ashton qualifies and elects to receive the Terminal Lump Sum Payment. On the 9 April 2016 Ashton is at his local RSA and hears that the rates for the Disablement Pension have increased.

- 1. Ashton has already received his lump sum payment, is he entitled to anything as a result of the rates increase?*
- 2. What will Veterans' Affairs do?*

On 21 July 2016 (12 months since Ashton applied for and received his lump sum payment), Ashton is still alive.

- 3. Is Ashton entitled to any further support from Veterans' Affairs? If so what?*
- 4. If Ashton had passed away before July 2016, would his family need to repay part of the lump sum payment he had received?*
- 5. Can Ashton apply for another lump sum payment?*

Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension



The process and eligibility for Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension has not changed:

- Spouse/partner qualifies if the veteran's death is determined to be service related OR if the veteran was on 70% War Disablement Pension or 52% Disablement Pension at time of death, or they could have been.
- Must be in a relationship with the veteran at time of death
- Is paid for life unless entering into new relationship
- Is paid over and above New Zealand Superannuation or Veterans Pension and is a non-taxable income
- No automatic entitlement – Veterans Affairs will send out an information pack when an eligible veteran passes away, or one can be requested.

Children's Pension



The child of a veteran is eligible for the Children's Pension if they are under the age of 18 and:

- their veteran parent is currently receiving a Disablement Pension of 52% or more or a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more; or
- their veteran parent's **death was service-related** or the deceased veteran was, or could have been eligible for a Disablement Pension of 52% or more or a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more.
- Eligibility for the Children's Pension **will normally end** when a child turns 18 years of age. However, there are some **specific situations where a child will continue to receive, or may apply for**, the Children's Pension after they become 18 years of age.

Practice Scenarios – Children’s Pension

1. Simon’s step father was a Viet Nam veteran whose death was found to be service-related. Simon’s step father never received a pension from Veterans’ Affairs however Simon’s mother is thinking about applying for a Children’s Pension for Simon who is 16 years old.
 - *Is Simon eligible for the Children’s Pension? Why or why not?*
 - *If Simon was eligible, what information would his mother need to provide to support his application?*
2. Alice is receiving a War Disablement Pension of 65% and she wishes to apply for a Children’s Pension for her 8 year old daughter Joan.
 - *Is Joan eligible for the Children’s Pension? Why or why not?*
 - *If Alice was receiving a Disablement Pension of 65%, would this change Joan’s eligibility for a Children’s Pension? If so, how?*

Practice Scenarios – Children’s Pension

3. Unfortunately Adam passed away on a qualifying deployment and leaves behind three beautiful children – Betty, Brad and Matthew. Betty and Brad are from Adam’s first marriage while Matthew is from Adam’s current relationship with Isobel.
 - *Which of the three children are eligible for the Children’s Pension?*

Practice Scenarios – Children’s Pension

Remember Adam’s three children – Betty, Brad and Matthew. Through the application process we discover that:

1. Betty is 21 years old, suffers from severe autism and has never applied for or received the Children’s Pension. Betty is dependant on her mother and lives at home.
 - *Is Betty entitled to receive the Children’s Pension? Why or why not?*
2. Brad is currently 19 and after returning from a year travelling overseas is planning on going to university to study Engineering full time.
 - *Is Brad entitled to receive the Children’s Pension? Why or why not?*
 - *If Brad is eligible, what information would he need to provide to support his application?*
 - *If Brad is eligible, who will the Children’s Pension be payable to?*
 - *Is Brad entitled to any other support or services?*

Practice Scenarios – Children’s Pension



Remember Joan, her mother Alice served in Cambodia and now receives a Disablement Pension of 65% for several service-related conditions. Alice decides to apply for a Children's Pension for Joan.

- 1. What information does Alice need to provide as part of Joan’s application?*
- 2. Who will decide if Joan is eligible for a Children’s Pension?*
- 3. What will happen to Joan’s entitlement when she turns 16 years old?*
- 4. If Alice was Joan’s grandmother, would Joan still be eligible for a Children’s Pension? Why or why not?*
- 5. If Joan were to leave home at the age of 17, could she seek to have the Children’s Pension paid to her directly?*
- 6. Would Joan still be entitled to receive the Children’s Pension if she decides to under take full time study at the age of 24 years? Why or why not?*

Dependant's Pension



The Dependant's Pension provides **financial support to a dependant of a veteran** where the **dependant is not their spouse/partner or child** and the veteran is either affected by significant service-related impairment or whose death was due to qualifying service.

- The Dependant's Pension is tax free and paid fortnightly.
- The rate of Dependant's pension paid is subject to the **dependant's economic position**
- The Dependant's Pension **will be reduced** if the dependant has a weekly income above 50% of the weekly pension rate.
 - Any income more than 50% of the Dependant's Pension will reduce the Dependant's Pension \$1 for \$1. eg., Dependants pension is currently \$160.86 if a Dependant earns \$100, then the payment will be reduced by \$19.57 ($160.86 \times 50\% = 80.43$; $100 - 80.43 = 19.57$)

Practice Scenarios – Dependant's Pension

1. Billy is currently receiving a permanent Disablement Pension of 62%. Since his ex-partner unfortunately passed away last year, Billy has full custody of his 14 year old son Matt.
 - *Is Matt eligible for the Dependant's Pension? Why or why not?*
2. A few years ago Billy married his new partner Yvonne who also has a 14 year old daughter Rachel, from a previous relationship. Unfortunately Billy took a turn for the worse and he passed away before Matt turned 18. Yvonne has full custody of both Rachel and Matt.
 - *Is Rachel eligible for the Dependant's Pension? Why or why not?*

Practice Scenarios – Dependent's Pension

1. Stuart is married to Roslyn whose older brother Jason was unfortunately killed in a car accident. Jason has three sons – Ben 10 years old, Jamie 15 years old and Josh 19 years old who are cared for full time by Stuart and Roslyn. Stuart was deployed to Afghanistan and due to his injuries is now receiving a permanent Disablement Pension of 70%.
 - *Are any of the three children eligible for the Dependant's Pension? Why or why not?*
2. Roslyn wants to move to Australia to be closer to her parents.
 - *If the family moves, will any of the children be eligible for the Dependant's Pension? Why or why not?*



Children's Bursary

- The Children's Bursary is paid to children of a veteran only, not dependants
- The Bursary is a yearly tax free lump sum payment which is paid at various rates depending on the child's situation, eg studying full-time or part-time
- It is only paid for schools that are based in New Zealand
- The child must also be eligible for a Children's Pension

When a person with an entitlement dies



- When a person in receipt of an entitlement from Veterans' Affairs, dies, the entitlement will **stop 28 days later**.
- Allowing 28 days will give the recipient's family a fair opportunity to contact Veterans' Affairs to stop payments and avoid the creation of debt.
- The family may also be eligible for entitlements and support from Veterans' Affairs such as Funeral Expenses (in the case of a veteran) or the spouse of a deceased veteran may be eligible for a Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension, children to a Children's Pension.
- A pack will be issued to the Executor of the Estate including applications for any appropriate assistance where applicable.

Services



Services are various forms of assistance provided to veterans (and in some cases family members) who meet specific criteria.

- These include:
 - Treatment
 - Social rehabilitation
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Assistance towards travel costs and ancillary services associated with treatment and rehabilitation
 - Veterans' Independence Programme (will be introduced 7 Dec 2015)
- Under Scheme One only, this also includes
 - Attendant Allowance
 - Clothing Allowance
 - Travel Allowance and
 - Recreational Travel Concession



Treatment

Any veteran who has an accepted service-related injury, illness or condition is eligible for payment of, or contribution towards the cost of their treatment.

- Veterans' Affairs approves all treatment that it will pay or contribute towards and records the approval in each veteran's Your Plan
- Veteran's Affairs will advise what limits, if any, are placed on each treatment that is approved.
- Approval is determined on a case by case basis.
- A veteran is issued with a treatment card which lists their accepted conditions. This can be used to access any routine treatment.
- Veteran's Affairs is only able to pay or contribute towards treatment provided by a health practitioner and treatment provider defined in the Veterans' Support Act 2014.

Treatment related travel



- The process for this assistance has not changed significantly.
- Medical Travel costs may be claimed where a veteran is required to:
 - receive treatment for an accepted **service-related injury, illness or condition**; or
 - undergo a medical assessment at the direction of Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of **determining a veteran's eligibility of an entitlement or service.**

Master Agreements



Veterans' Affairs delivers hundreds of thousands of services to veterans across the whole of New Zealand. These services are being delivered, in the main, by individual contractors. Doing this has meant that there are large variations in the standards and costs of services provided. By providing Master Agreements, Veterans' Affairs will be able to;

- Streamline processes and services
- Achieve the best value for our veterans
- Ensure consistent value for money, long term
- Align to the Government standard

Long-term hospital care



A **one-off funding allocation up to a maximum of \$2,000** will be available for the travel costs for those eligible to visit a veteran in long term hospital care (28 consecutive days or more)

- The funding may be used in several different ways. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A veteran has a child living or working overseas. The funding may be used in part or whole towards the cost of reimbursing an international airfare.
 - The veteran has a spouse and their home is a few hours' drive from the hospital the veteran is admitted to. The funding can be used for travel by private vehicle, accommodation and/or meal costs and out-of pocket expenses, such as car parking or toll fees.
- While the veteran remains in long-term hospital care, the funding can be used until the allocation has been exhausted.

Funeral Expenses



- The family or representatives of a deceased veteran may be eligible for payment or contribution from Veterans' Affairs toward the cost of the funeral and burial or cremation, and towards the cost of transporting the body.
- The **amount payable for Funeral Expenses** is a tax-free lump sum payment.
- If a veteran dies in hospital, and their death is due to qualifying service, Veterans' Affairs may also pay all or part of the **cost of transporting the body** to the place of burial or cremation or back to where the veteran had been residing before being admitted to hospital.
- The maximum rate payable for the cost of transporting the body is:
 - **\$653.32** if the burial or cremation of the body is to take place **within in the locality** of the hospital in which the veteran died; or
 - **\$1,306.63** if the burial or cremation of the body is to take place **outside the locality** of the hospital in which the veteran died.

Practice Scenarios – Funeral Expenses



John served in World War Two and lives in Kaitaia and has several accepted conditions, one of which is skin cancer. Unfortunately there was no course of treatment the doctors could offer John due to the invasiveness of the melanoma. He passed away yesterday leaving behind a wife, Man-ling, and a 14 year old son.

1. *Is John's wife eligible to apply for Funeral Expenses?*
2. *If John passed away in hospital, could Veterans' Affairs pay for the transport of his body?*
3. *What does Man-ling need to do?*

Because John was on the New Zealand Superannuation, Man-ling has been in touch with MSD who advised her to apply for a funeral grant with them, which she has done.

1. *Can Man-ling still apply for Funeral Expenses from Veterans' Affairs?*
2. *Who will be paid the Funeral Expenses?*

Practice Scenarios – Funeral Expenses

Paul is a Viet Nam veteran receiving a Disablement Pension of 60% for amputation of the lower leg and the Veteran's Pension. His wife phoned Veterans' Affairs this morning to advise that he had a heart attack and passed away this morning.

- 1. Can she apply to cover the costs of Paul's funeral expenses for burial or cremation? Why or why not?*
- 2. Can she apply for transport costs for Paul's body? Why or why not?*
- 3. What evidence does she need to provide when applying for Funeral Expenses for burial or cremation?*

Practice Scenarios – Funeral Expenses

Jonathan lived in Australia and was receiving a War Disablement Pension of 95% with a heart condition accepted at 30%. Unfortunately Jonathan recently passed away from a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Regina.

1. *If Regina decides to apply for Funeral Expenses, what evidence would she need to provide?*
2. *If Jonathan passed away in hospital, would Regina be able to apply for any other support? Why or why not?*

The funeral director is going to charge Regina \$700 for all the transport costs for Jonathan, which totals 35.5 km's.

3. *Would Regina be able to apply for transport costs? Why or why not?*
4. *If Veterans' Affairs accepted her application, how much would she be paid? Why?*

Veteran's Pension



Veteran's Pension is available to all veterans with eligible service who are 65 or older.

If the veteran is in receipt of 70% War Disablement Pension or 52% Disablement Pension or more, and they have a spouse or partner, the spouse or partner is able to be included in their Veteran's Pension.

A lump sum payment may also be made on the veteran's death if he or she is survived by a spouse/partner or child.

The Veterans' Pension is administered on behalf of Veterans' Affairs by the Ministry of Social Development

Veterans' Independence Programme



Effective 7 December 2015

Services such as:

- Attendant Allowance,
- Clothing Allowance,
- Travel Concession,

will be rolled into Veterans' Independent Programme.

Further information on Veterans' Independence Programme will be provided later in the year.

What if the veteran is living overseas?



Apart from the Children's Bursary, veterans and their families who live outside of New Zealand can receive the same payments as the veterans living in New Zealand if they meet the eligibility criteria and their application is accepted.

New Zealand payments to an overseas country may be subject to tax. It is up to the recipient of the payment to contact their local tax authority to determine whether or not the New Zealand payments are taxable in their country of residence or are considered income for any income/asset testing that they may be subject to.



How to contact us:



- Website – www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz
 - Applications forms
 - Fact sheets
- Enquiry Line – 0800 483 837
 - General information
 - Speak to your case manager
- Email – veterans@nzdf.mil.nz
 - Applications
 - Queries