



Te Tira Ahu Ika A Whiro

**VETERANS'
AFFAIRS**

New Zealand

Support for Vietnam veterans



We're here to support you

As a Vietnam veteran you've served your country, now let us serve you.

How to get started

If you're already registered with Veterans' Affairs in New Zealand

Have a read through this booklet, and get in touch with us if you'd like to access the support available.

We'll work with you to understand your needs, and then we'll figure out the best way to support you. This may involve conducting a short needs assessment, or referring you to a health professional.

If you're not registered with us

If you're a Vietnam veteran, and you're not registered with us, we'd encourage you to do so. You might not need support now, but you could in the future.

To register or to find out more, get in touch with us.

- www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz
- 0800 483 8372 (Freephone NZ)

What kind of support you may be entitled to from us

As a veteran, there's a range of support you may be able to get.

Health and wellbeing

If you have a physical or mental injury or illness related to your qualifying service, we can fund:

- treatment and rehabilitation
- income and impairment compensation

A related injury can be either caused or made worse by your qualifying service.

Independence support

If you need support to stay independent in your home funding is available as part of our Veterans' Independence Programme.

Depending on your needs, we can fund things like:

- medical alarms
- garden maintenance
- podiatry
- house cleaning.

You don't need to have a service-related condition, just qualifying service and a need for support.

Commemorative funding

\$2,500 is available for international travel that commemorates or celebrates your service. To be eligible for the funding, your trip needs to include travel to either your place of Qualifying Operational Service or an overseas reunion or event linked to your Qualifying Operational Service.

Retirement

When you retire, if you're a Vietnam veteran, you may qualify for the Veteran's Pension.

It's similar to New Zealand Superannuation. This means your eligibility, and how much money you get, will depend on your personal situation. This will include how long you've lived in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65.

You will receive the same amount of money if you're on the Veteran's Pension. You will also receive a few extra benefits:

- an automatic Community Services Card — it will be combined with your Veteran SuperGold Card
- your pension isn't reduced if you need long-term hospital care
- you and your partner may be eligible for a lump-sum payment when your partner dies.

To find out more about the Veteran's Pension

Contact the Veteran's Pension Centre — they are a dedicated team within the Ministry of Social Development.

- 0800 650 656
- veteranspension@msd.govt.nz

Extra support for Vietnam veterans

If you served in Viet Nam you may be eligible for extra support.

- **Annual medical assessment** — a free yearly check up.
- **Ex gratia payment** of \$40,000 if you've been diagnosed with:
 - soft tissue sarcoma
 - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - Hodgkin's disease
 - chloracne
 - chronic lymphocytic leukaemia—including hairy-cell leukaemia and other chronic b-cell leukaemias

The Viet Nam Veterans and their Families Trust provides grants to Vietnam veterans, and their families, to help with day-to-day life.

To find out more about the Viet Nam Veterans and their Families Trust

- **Freephone 0800 824 824**
- **trusts@dia.govt.nz**

End of life

We can support your family when you die. As a Vietnam veteran you will qualify for:

- funding for plaques and headstones
- assistance with funeral expenses — depending on your personal circumstances
- burial in a New Zealand services cemetery.

Support for family and whānau

We can provide support to your family if you suffer a service-related death or serious injury.

This support could include:

- financial compensation
- financial advice
- child care support.

Extra support for families of Vietnam veterans

In addition to the above, the families of Vietnam veterans are eligible for:

- **counselling** for children, spouse or partner, and ex-spouse or partner
- **ex gratia payment for spouse or partners** if their veteran died from a specific condition
- **ex gratia payment for natural-born children** of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with:
 - acute myeloid leukaemia
 - adrenal gland cancer
 - cleft lip
 - cleft palate
 - spina bifida.

Get support from Veterans' Affairs, even if you live in Australia

New Zealand and Australia have a long history of working together, including supporting each other's veterans.

If you're a New Zealand veteran living in Australia, or you're planning on moving to Australia, you're still entitled to support similar to what you'd get back home in New Zealand.

Australia's Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) works on our behalf to support New Zealand ex-service personnel living in Australia. In return, we help look after Australian veterans back in New Zealand.

Working with DVA

To help you get the best support possible in Australia, we may refer you to DVA. This will involve assigning you a DVA case manager in Australia.

If you have a service-related condition, DVA might issue you a White Card. It's the equivalent of the New Zealand Treatment Card.

Use your White Card when you get medical treatment for a service-related condition. It will ensure that we're billed for the cost through DVA, and you don't need pay upfront.

Get in touch

- www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz
- 0800 483 8372 (Freephone NZ)
- 1800 483 837 (Freephone Australia)

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