



Application Form Surviving Spouse Pension

Eligibility

An application for a Surviving Spouse Pension may be made by the surviving spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner of a:

- a veteran of a recognised war or emergency;
- a member of the Merchant Marine during World War II;
- a member of the New Zealand Armed Forces who served up to 1 April 1974 or earlier;
- a member of the New Zealand Police Force who served up to 1 April 1974 or earlier.

In order to be eligible, the surviving spouse or partner must have been in a relationship with the veteran at the time of their death. If, since the time of the veterans death, the surviving spouse or partner has entered into a new civil union or de facto relationship and that relationship has broken down after five years or less, the surviving spouse or partner remains eligible to apply for the Surviving Spouse Pension.

Assistance

If you need assistance filling out this form your Veterans' Affairs New Zealand case manager or a welfare officer from your local RSA, or other veterans' group, will be able to help you complete this application form.

When is the Surviving Spouse Pension awarded?

The surviving spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner who was in a relationship with the veteran at the time of the veteran's death may be eligible for a Surviving Spouse pension if:

- the death of the late veteran is deemed to be attributable to his or her service as a member of the Forces; or
- the veteran was in receipt of a permanent War Disablement Pension of 70% or more at the time of death; or
- it is deemed that the veteran could have received a permanent pension of 70% or more had he or she not died.

The Basis for Decisions

If the veteran was in receipt of a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more at the time of death, a Surviving Spouse Pension is paid and you do not need to complete this form.

If a veteran was not in receipt of a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more the decision to award a Surviving Spouse Pension is dependent on the decision of the War Pensions Claims Panel. The War Pensions Claims Panel considers whether the causes of death of the veteran could be attributable to or have been aggravated by service and, if the veteran was not on a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more, whether he or she could have received a permanent pension of 70%.

If the War Pensions Claims Panel decides that the death of the veteran could be attributable to or have been aggravated by service, or that the veteran could have received a permanent pension of 70% or more had he or she not died a Surviving Spouse Pension is paid.

If the veteran was not in receipt of a War Disablement Pension at the time of death

If the veteran was not in receipt of a War Disablement Pension at the time of death the surviving spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner can still make application for a Surviving Spouse Pension. In order to support the application medical evidence which shows a link between the veteran's service and their disabilities or cause of death will need to be provided.

In order to obtain information we recommend that you ask the veteran's former GP to complete the GP Form attached to this application form

If the Claims Panel has previously considered the attributability of the veteran's death

If the War Pensions Claims Panel has considered the attributability of the veteran's death in the past and determined that the death was not attributable to service and that the veteran was not and could not have been in receipt of a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more, the claim must be reopened before it can be considered by the War Pensions Claims Panel again.

In order for a claim to be considered for reopening you need to provide **new** evidence which has not been presented previously and which indicates that the veteran's disabilities and, or death were related to service. Your claim will be considered by the National Review Officer who will determine whether there is a sufficient basis to send the claim to the Claims Panel to consider.

How can this pension affect my other payments?

In New Zealand, this pension is not taxed and it is not regarded as income. This means it is not considered as income for most other payments made by Work and Income.

This pension can be paid anywhere around the world. However, it may be considered as income in other countries and this means it may be subject to tax or could affect other social security payments. You should make inquiries with the appropriate Government agency in your country of residence for further information on how the pension may impact on your other income.

Information

In order for us to process your claim you need to provide us with two forms of certified identification, one of which needs to be either a birth certificate or a current passport. Original documents must be photocopied and certified true copies by your local Work and Income Office, a Justice of the Peace or a Solicitor.

We also need a certified copy of your late partner's death certificate.

In order to verify your relationship with the veteran, we need a certified copy of your marriage certificate or proof of the duration of your relationship, if you were not legally married. Proof of the duration of your relationship might include a statutory declaration from you regarding your relationship and documentation such as home ownership documents, bank account statements, hire purchase records etc showing that you were financially interdependent.

You also need to supply a pre printed bank deposit slip or a bank statement showing your bank account number and details, or a document verifying your bank account details such as a letter from your bank on letterhead paper.

Additional Information

If you have additional information that you wish to submit in support of your claim, please attach it to the application and send it in with your application.

Privacy Statement

The information provided in this form will be used by Veterans' Affairs New Zealand to determine your entitlements. This may also include the use of the information for statistical and research purposes and the provision of advice to Government.

In order to process your application for a Surviving Spouse Pension, Veterans' Affairs New Zealand may require additional information from other agencies holding information relevant to the processing of your claim. This may include:

- Obtaining copies of your veteran partner's Service and medical documents from the New Zealand Defence Force.
- Obtaining information on any disability from your veteran partner's General Practitioner, a medical specialist, or other health professional.

The medical information collected regarding any claimed disability or cause of death may be made available to other health professionals concerned with your health.

Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to request access to all information held about yourself and to request corrections to that information.

You are not obliged to provide the information requested, but if you do not provide the information your application may not be able to be processed.

Declaration

I understand the Privacy Act statement contained in this application form.

Signature

Date

Veterans' Pension

If you are over the age of 65 years and in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation, do you wish to apply to transfer to a Veteran's Pension if, as a result of this application, you are awarded a Surviving Spouse Pension?

Yes

No

Signature

Date

Please send the completed form to:

Veterans' Affairs New Zealand, PO Box 9448, Hamilton

Part 1Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.**Applicant's Details**

NZ Super Number (if known):

Title (Mr, Mrs, Dr, Col etc.)

Surname:

Given Names:

Preferred Name/Also Known As/Alias

Date of Birth:

Contact Telephone Number (home)

(work)

Email

Fax

Residential Address

Postal Address (if different to residential address) All correspondence will be sent to this address.

Names of any dependent children and their dates of birth:

Part 2Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.**Veteran's Details**

War Pension Number, NZ Super Number (if known)

NHI (National Health Information Number) (if known)

Title (Mr, Mrs, Dr, Col etc.):

Surname:

Given Names:

Preferred Name/Also Known As/Alias:

Date of Birth:

Date of Death:

Part 3

Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.
If the veteran was in receipt of a War Disablement Pension, you do not need to complete this section.

Veteran's Service Details

Veterans' Affairs New Zealand will request full details of your service from the New Zealand Defence Force. The information you provide will assist in obtaining your service documents.

Service number/s:

Navy Army Air Force Merchant Navy Police

What year did the veteran enlist?

What year was the veteran discharged?

Did the veteran serve under any other name? Yes No

If you answered yes, what name did the veteran serve under?

What operational theatres did the veteran serve in?

Was the veteran ever a Prisoner of War Yes No

If yes, where was the veteran held as a PoW?

Part 4

Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.

Veteran's Work History

What was the veteran's occupation before he/she enlisted?

What was the veteran's occupation/s after he/she was discharged?

Part 5Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.**Relationship Details**

Date and Place of marriage (or length of relationship) Please attach a certified copy of your marriage certificate or proof of the duration of your relationship, if you were not legally married.

Were you living with the veteran at the date of the veteran's death? Yes No

If you answered **no**, please give the reasons why you were not living together at the date of the veteran's death?

Have you married again or entered into a civil union or de facto relationship since your veteran partner's death? Yes No

If you answered **yes**, please provide the following details:

- when did you enter into the new relationship (s)?
- are you still in a new relationship? Yes No
- if the new relationship has ended, when did the new relationship end?

Part 6Please write in **BLOCK LETTERS** with a blue or black pen. Please do not write in pencil.**Veteran's War Disablement Pension Details**

Was the veteran in receipt of a War Disablement Pension when he or she died?

Yes No

If you answered **yes**, please provide the following details what was the percentage of this War Disablement Pension?

If the veteran received a War Disablement Pension what disabilities did the veteran received a War Disablement Pension for?

Has the War Pensions Claims Panel ever made a decision regarding the attributability of death of the veteran?

Yes No

If you answered **yes**, in what year was this decision made?

If you answered yes to this second question, your claim must be reopened before it can be considered by the War Pensions Claims Panel. You will need to provide **new** evidence which indicates that the veteran's death and, or disabilities were related to service. Please attach the new information to this application form.

Part 7 If you have authority to act on behalf of a claimant who is **UNABLE** to sign due to physical or mental incapacity please complete the following details and attach a copy of your authority to act e.g. power of attorney.

Authority to act on behalf of a claimant who is UNABLE to sign

Full Name

Address

Contact Telephone Number

Declaration (please also sign the declaration in part 8)

I declare that I am authorised to act on behalf of the claimant in matters relating to this claim.

Signature Date

Part 8 Please read and sign this so that we have the authority to proceed with your application.

Declaration

I have completed this Surviving Spouse Pension application form, or this application form has been completed for me. The information I have given is true and I have not left anything out.

Signature Date