

Funeral Grants

Eligibility

The veteran does not need to have been resident in New Zealand at the time of death to receive the War Pensions Funeral Grant.

Death Due to Service

Where the death of the veteran is accepted as being attributed to their service, a funeral grant is paid. The amount of money that is in the estate is not taken into consideration.

Death not due to service, but receiving 70% permanent pension, or could have been receiving 70% permanent pension at the time of death.

If the veterans death was not due to service, but the veteran was receiving a 70% permanent pension, or the decision has been made that the veteran could have been receiving a 70% permanent pension at the time of death, a funeral grant is paid if:

- the deceased veteran left a surviving partner or dependant child who qualifies for a Surviving Spouses Pension or a Child Allowance; and
- the deceased was, at the date of death, receiving Invalids Benefit, Veterans' Pension, or New Zealand Superannuation and after taking theirs and their partner's income at the time of death into account, they would still have qualified for an Invalids Benefit.

Indigent Circumstances

If the veteran has no entitlement to a funeral grant under the War Pensions Regulations 1956, the Secretary for War Pensions may approve a grant if the veteran has War and Emergency service and died in indigent circumstances. This means that at the time of death the veteran had limited income.

In order to pay a grant under this category, assets and income need to be assessed.

Commonwealth Veterans and Members of the Mercantile Marine

A funeral grant may be made to Commonwealth veterans who have died in indigent circumstances and have War and Emergency service in a War or Emergency that New Zealand Forces were engaged in. This is only payable where Commonwealth veterans are unable to access any form of funeral grant through the country they served for.

A funeral grant may be made to members of the Mercantile Marine who served in World War II who have died in indigent circumstances.

Service needs to be verified before any payment can be made.

What do you need to do?

Complete the application form VANZ 22 and send it, with a copy of the death certificate and the funeral account to Veterans' Affairs New Zealand, PO Box 9448, Hamilton 3240.

If the veteran's death has not been determined to be due to service then you need to complete an Income Assessment Form (VANZ 22B) and attach it to the Application Form.

If you are claiming on the basis of Indigent Circumstances, you need to complete an Assets Assessment Form (VANZ 22A) and attach it to the Application Form.

Can I claim other Funeral Grants?

If the veteran was in receipt of Veteran's Pension then you may receive both the Veteran's Pension lump sum payment on death and the War Pensions Funeral Grant.

You can not receive both the War Pensions Funeral Grant and the Social Security Funeral Grant.

How Much?

As at 1 April 2009, the amount of the War Pensions Funeral Grant is \$2,224.77.

Who do I contact if I want more information?

If you want further information you can discuss this with VANZ by phoning 0800 483 8372.