

Greater Wellington Veterans' Support Forum 26/27 May 2026



PERFORMANCE REPORT

PREPARED BY

THE RANFURLY VETERANS' TRUST

June 2026

The Ranfurly Veterans' Trust and Veterans' Affairs New Zealand worked in partnership with multiple organisations to bring together veteran-focused groups and New Zealand veterans and their whānau from around the Greater Wellington region. The event centered on connection, rehabilitation, and the overall wellbeing of veterans and their whānau.

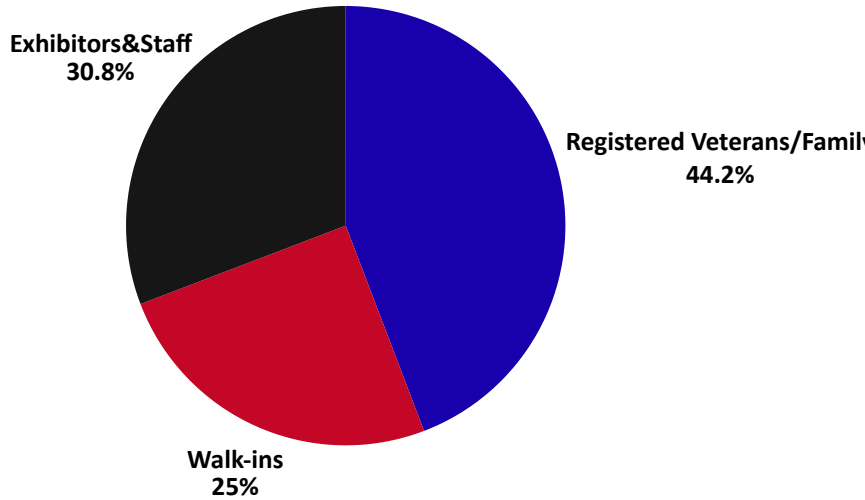
The Greater Wellington Veterans' Support Forum was held on **26/27 May 2026** at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua City Centre and provided:

- An opportunity for current and ex-service members/veterans and their whānau to reunite, connect and engage with fellow ex-service members.
- Access to 23 organisations offering support and assistance in areas such as finance, advocacy, camaraderie, health and wellbeing.
- One-on-one meetings in person between veterans and Veterans' Affairs staff on the day.
- Access to consultations with staff from the NZDF's Force Financial Hub to discuss wills, finance, and insurance.
- Funded equipment for ex-service members/veterans to aid with activities of daily living (ILS).
- Presentations from: Veterans' Affairs, NZDF Force Financial Hub, RNZRSA and Vietnam Veterans and their Families Trust.
- A visit from Minister for Veterans and Minister of Defence, Hon Chris Penk MP
- An evening event the night before for those who couldn't attend the daytime event to meet with VA staff.
- VA gave away scarves and beanies on behalf of and knitted by, Operation Wrapped in Remembrance



252

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE AT
THE GREATER
WELLINGTON VETERANS'
SUPPORT FORUM**



VETERANS & THEIR WHĀNAU

Registration was open to anyone who has served or is still serving in the New Zealand Defence Force, also to whānau. An evening event was held the night before the main event. This created an opportunity for veterans who could not make the day time event to be able meet with a VA staff member.

Thursday Evening Event Attendance

- 12 Veterans pre-registered on Eventbrite
- 3 Whānau pre-registered on Eventbrite
- 9 Veterans attended
- 3 Whānau attended
- 3 Walk-ins
- 15 Total number attended**

15 Were seen by a Case Manager

Friday Main Event Attendance

- 108 Veterans pre-registered on Eventbrite
- 55 Whānau pre-registered on Eventbrite
- 90 Veterans attended
- 40 Whānau attended
- 53 Walk-ins
- 183 Total number attended**

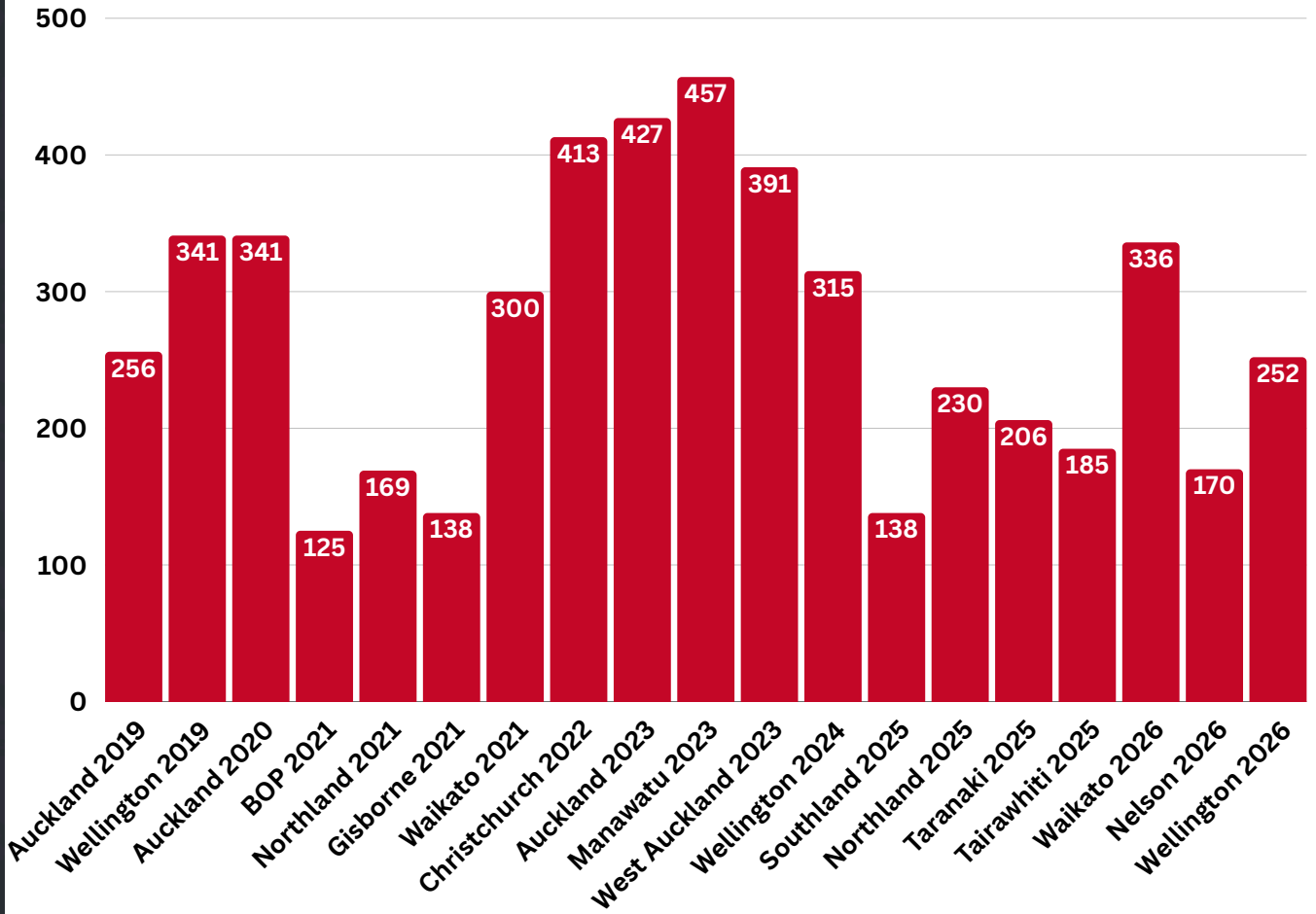
81 Were seen by a Case Manager

In total, **198 veterans and/or whānau** attended the Greater Wellington Veterans' Support Forum

HOW MUCH WAS ACHIEVED? PARTICIPATION

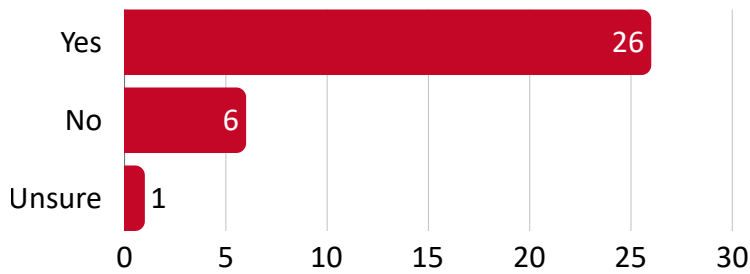
EXHIBITORS & STAFF

There were 23 organisations in attendance, with a total of 69 staff who were available for the attendees on the day.

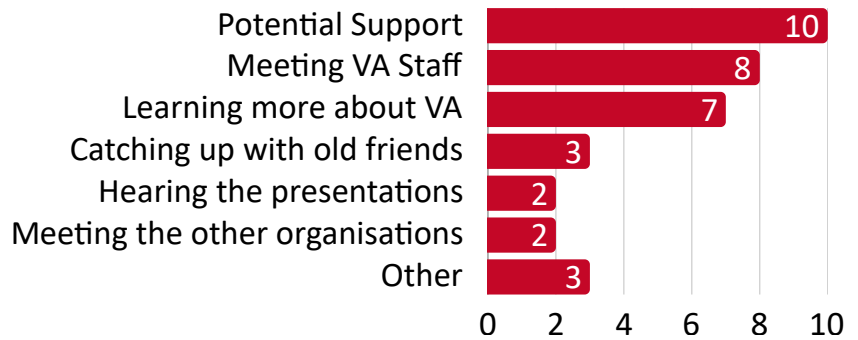


Feedback from 36 Ex-service Members/ Veterans

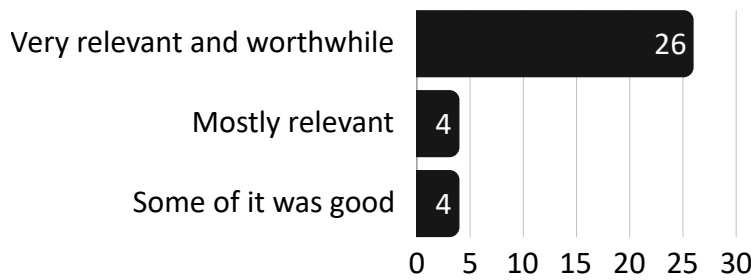
Were you a client of VA before the forum?



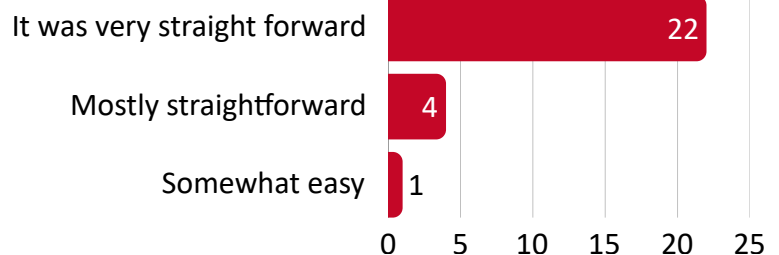
What interested you most about this event



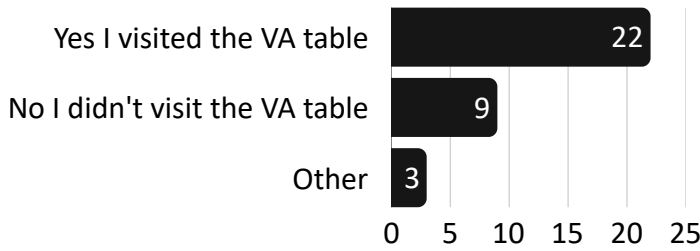
How relevant did you find the event?



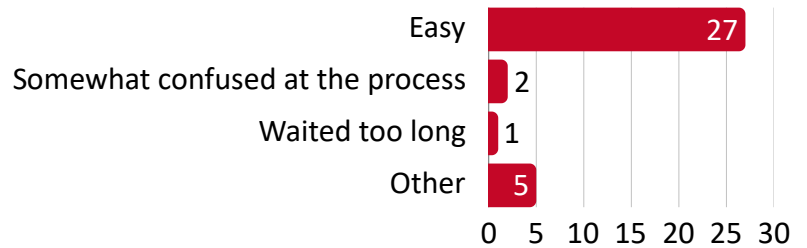
How easy was it to find the information you were after?



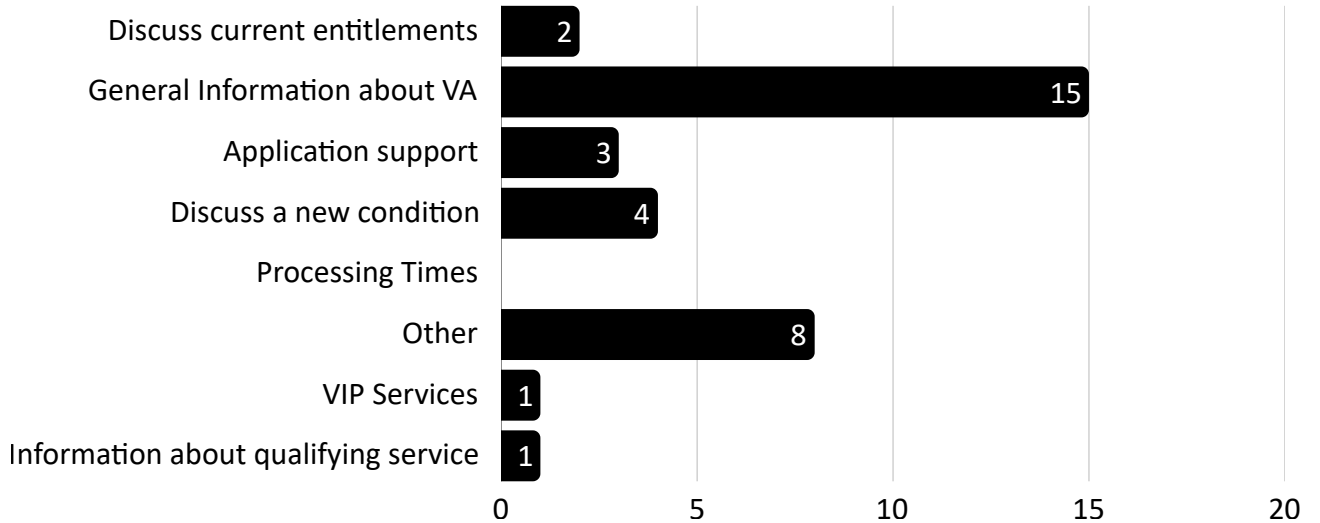
Did you visit the VA table and did you get the information you were after?



How did you find the process of getting to see a member of the VA team?



What was the main reason you wanted to talk to Veterans' Affairs?



Feedback from 6 Exhibitors

Overall Evaluation of the forum



EXCELLENT

How organized was the forum?



100%

How do you rate the venue



96.7%

Would you attend another forum if the opportunity arose?



83% YES



What did exhibitors like about the forum?

- I was impressed by the layout of the exhibitors areas to the Veterans but also the formal presentation area. The individual exhibitors areas were very well put together (tables with power, seating for exhibitors and Veterans visiting our stands and the Forum was very well catered).
- Really enjoyed the forum. Great opportunity to get out in the community and meet Veteran's and their spouses. I enjoyed listening to the presentations and learning about how other organisations help support Veterans.
- It was well organised and everyone was welcoming and happy to be there.
- Easy to find the organisers and people to help with questions.
- All the charities were together so great networking opportunity
- the Exhibitor pack covered everything needed.
- It was well organised.
- I enjoyed the mix of vendors and community partners on site, feedback from participants was positive



Key Insights and recommendations

- Organisations saw benefits in attending the forum and being able to network with other organisations that also support veterans
- Ranfurly Veterans' Trust to provide accommodation referrals for charitable organisations attending forums from out of town
- Regular review of invited organisations to ensure relevant support continues to be offered to veterans and their whānau



General comments from Exhibitors

- Being able to support veterans and their whānau is important and organisations in attendance recognised this

PARTICIPATING EXHIBITORS



THE RANFURLY VETERANS' TRUST



resonate.



Maraeroa Marae Health Clinic
Ka Ora te Whānau Ka Ora te Iwi | Strengthening our Families Strengthening our People



become
REDEFINING WEALTH



SOLDIERS, SAILORS & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND