

# Children's Pension

## APPLICATION FORM



The Children's Pension provides financial support to the children of veterans, who served in Viet Nam or before 1 April 1974, either affected by significant service-related impairment or whose death was due to qualifying service.

The application form should be completed by the person responsible for the care of the child, if the child is not yet 16 years of age; or if the child is 16 years of age or more but suffering from any mental or physical infirmity. If the pension is granted, payment will be made to the person responsible for the care of the child; unless Veterans' Affairs considers payment should be made to another person or to trustees.

In all other cases the child must complete and sign the application form themselves. If the pension is granted, payment will be made to the child.

To apply, you must fully complete this application form and provide any supporting information or evidence required by Veterans' Affairs.

Further information can be found in the Children's Pension Policy on our website here, [www.va.mil.nz/a-z/childrens-pension/](http://www.va.mil.nz/a-z/childrens-pension/)

If a Children's Pension has been granted and there is a change in circumstances, please complete the Update of Circumstances form on our website (VA52) which can be found on our website here, [www.va.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-documents-and-publications/forms](http://www.va.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-documents-and-publications/forms)

### **Eligibility** (section 72, Veterans' Support Act 2014)

Children of Scheme One veterans are eligible for the Children's Pension if they are under 18 years of age and their veteran parent is receiving a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more, or a Disablement Pension of 52% or more in relation to whole-person impairment.

Children are also eligible if their veteran parent's death was service-related or the deceased veteran was, or could have been eligible for a permanent War Disablement Pension of 70% or more, or a permanent Disablement Pension of 52% or more had they not died.

There are some specific situations where a child is eligible to continue to receive the Children's Pension, or may apply for the Children's Pension after they become 18 years of age.

These are when:

(i) The child suffers from any mental or physical infirmity:

Veterans' Affairs has the discretion to continue paying the Children's Pension for as long as the child continues to suffer the infirmity.

(ii) A child is undertaking full-time study:

The child is entitled to continue to receive the Children's Pension until the day they turn 23.

## **Definition** (section 7, Veterans' Support Act 2014 )

The Veterans' Support Act 2014 defines the child of a veteran as:

- natural child of the veteran; or
- an adopted child of the veteran ; or
- a child of whom the veteran is or has been a guardian; or
- a grandchild or a whāngai of the veteran in relation to whom the veteran acts or has acted as a parent or a guardian
- any other child who would ordinarily be regarded as a child of the veteran because the veteran is or was the spouse or partner of one of the child's parents; and acted as a parent of the child.

## **Offences** (section 270, Veterans' Support Act 2014 )

It is an offence to make a false statement or provide misleading information to VA, and anyone who does so commits an offence against this section and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

## **Any questions?**

Contact us:

- New Zealand freephone 0800 483 8372
- Rest of the world +64 4 495 2070
- Australia freephone 1800 483 837
- Or email us at [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)

For more information visit our website [www.va.mil.nz](http://www.va.mil.nz)

## **Completing your Application**

If the child is not yet 16 years of age; or if the child is 16 years of age or more but suffering from any mental or physical infirmity the application form must be completed and signed by:

- the person responsible for the care of the child ("the applicant").
- any person requested by the applicant to complete the form (the applicant must complete the Signature & Acknowledgement); or
- the holder of a Power of Attorney or other recognised authority (refer to page 6).

In all other cases the child ("the applicant") must complete and sign the application form themselves. If the pension is granted, payment will be made to the child.

### **Step 1:**

#### **Read page 4 regarding documentation required and completion of the application form.**

Complete page 5, and 8 if applicable; read the Privacy Statement on page 9 and complete the Signature & Acknowledgement on page 10. If a question is not applicable, please write N/A. If there is insufficient space to answer a question, please include additional sheet/s of paper to complete your answer, including the question or page number it relates to.

### **Step 2:**

Complete the Checklist and Receipt on page 9, then send your fully completed application and all supporting documentation to Veterans' Affairs at the address shown.

If the veteran is deceased and was not receiving a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more, or a Disablement Pension of 52% or more in relation to whole-person impairment (or was not receiving any pension), further information may be required, such as the veteran's employment/service/medical history. If this situation applies, please contact us to discuss your situation.

## **Process for deciding claims** (sections 11, 73 and 209, Veterans' Support Act 2014)

Veterans' Affairs will make a decision on your claim as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving the claim. Veterans' Affairs may need to wait for you or any other person to provide further information required to determine whether or not to accept your claim.

If an application is accepted by Veterans' Affairs, the child's entitlement to the Children's Pension is to be treated as beginning on:

- a) the day on which Veterans' Affairs received the application, if the veteran is living; or
- b) the day after the veteran's death, if the application is received by Veterans' Affairs within 6 months after the veteran's death; or
- c) the day on which Veterans' Affairs received the application, if the application is received by Veterans' Affairs more than 6 months after the veteran's death.

## **Child over 18 undertaking full-time study**

A course is considered full-time if it meets the equivalent full-time study (EFTS) rating.

- a) full-time study for a year must be at least 0.8 EFTS.
- b) for courses less than a year, the full-time EFTS rating will depend on the length of the course.

Further information on EFTS is available on the Study link website [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

Recipients studying full-time will receive the Children's Pension, until 31st December, unless the recipient has informed Veterans' Affairs in writing that they intend to undertake full-time study in the following year. Recipients **must** inform Veterans' Affairs if they withdraw from, suspend or complete their studies.

## **Children's Bursary**

Recipients of the Children's Pension may also be entitled to a bursary. The bursary provides annual payments to assist with study at secondary schools or a tertiary education organization.

Further information can be found in the Children's Bursary factsheet on our website.

## **Help completing this form**

- You can ask someone you trust to help you complete this form. This might be whānau or family, someone from your local RSA, or a Veterans' Affairs Case Manager.
- If you're unable to complete and sign this form due to physical or mental incapacity, it must be signed by a person with authority to act on your behalf. Evidence of this authority must be provided with the application.

## Documents required with a first-time application

A first-time application for a Children's Pension must include the following documentation:

- Evidence of the child's relationship to the veteran and age:
  - A certified copy of the full birth certificate for natural children.
  - A certified copy of the adoptive birth certificate for adopted children.
  - A certified copy of the full birth certificate for stepchildren; and a statutory declaration that the veteran acted or acts as a parent of the child and was or is the spouse or partner of the child's mother or father. Statutory declaration to include the full name and date of birth of each child for whom an application for a Children's Pension is being made.
- An original or certified copy of the bank statement showing the account number and name OR
- a pre printed deposit slip stamped by the bank of the account the pension is to be paid to.
- If applicable, medical evidence of the child's mental or physical infirmity from a Medical Practitioner.
- If applicable, evidence that you are responsible for the child such as a statutory declaration from spouse or partner; Court custody documents.
- If applicable, a certified copy of the late veteran's death certificate (if not already provided).
- If you are a child 18 years of age or more and undertaking full-time study, you must also include:
  - A statutory declaration that you are undertaking full-time study in New Zealand.
  - Evidence that the course meets the equivalent full-time study (EFTS) rating.

## Pension payments

The pension is paid to the person responsible for the child's care until the child's 16th birthday. If you are a child turning 16 years of age, to apply to have the payments transferred to your own bank account, you must:

- Complete an Update of Circumstances form and attach the documentation requested.

### **The pension will cease being paid on the child's 18th birthday.**

If you are the person responsible for the care of a child who continues to suffer from mental or physical infirmity, to apply to have the pension extended you must:

- Complete an Update of Circumstances form and attach the documentation requested.

### **The pension will cease being paid if the child no longer suffers from the mental or physical infirmity. You must inform Veterans' Affairs if the child's medical circumstances change.**

If you are a child undertaking full-time study, to apply to have the pension continued you must:

- Complete an Update of Circumstances form and attach the documentation requested.

### **The pension will cease being paid on the child's 23rd birthday; or if the child is no longer undertaking full-time study. You must confirm your study commitments annually and inform Veterans' Affairs if you withdraw from, suspend or complete your studies.**

A 'certified' copy is an original document that has been photocopied and certified as a true copy by one of the following:

- Work and Income; Justice of the Peace; Solicitor; Police Officer; Registered Medical Professional; Court Registrar; or other people authorised to take statutory declarations.

A 'statutory declaration is a statement of facts, usually made in writing before someone authorised to take a statutory declaration such as:

- Justice of the Peace; Solicitor, Court Registrar; Notary Public.

### Child's details

**1** Does the child have a Work and Income number?

☐ No

☐ Yes **→ Enter the number**    –    –

If you don't know this number, please leave it blank.

2

What is the child's title?

☐ Mr
 ☐ Mrs
 ☐ Ms
 ☐ Miss
 Other

3

What is the child's full name?

First name

Middle names

Family name

Preferred name

**4** What is the child's date of birth?

/   /

5

Where does the child live?

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

Country

6

If the child's postal address is different to where the child lives, enter details below.

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

Country

7

What are the child's contact details?

Email

Daytime phone

Mobile phone

## Application type

8

Indicate the situation that applies to this Children's Pension application

- ☐ First-time application for a child under 18.
- ☐ First-time application for a child suffering from mental or physical infirmity.
- ☐ First-time application for a child undertaking full-time study.

If a Children's Pension has been granted and there is a change in circumstances, please complete the Update of Circumstances form on our website.

## Pension Payment Details

9

What bank account do you want payments to be made to?

Name of the account

You must attach **one** of the following



- ☐ A bank account statement, printout, or letter issued within the last six months that includes the bank's letterhead and stamp, **account holder's name and the account number**, or



- ☐ A screenshot from a banking app or website that displays **all** of the following:
  - The account holder's full name
  - The name or logo of the bank, and
  - The bank account number.

## Details of person responsible for child's care

These details are to be completed for applications when the child is under 16 years of age; or the child is suffering from any mental or physical infirmity.

**10** Do you have a Work and Income number?

☐ No

☐ Yes **→ Enter the number**

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If you don't know this number, please leave it blank.

**11** What is your title?

☐ Mr

☐ Mrs

☐ Ms

☐ Miss

Other

**12** What is your full name?

First name

Middle names

Family name

Preferred name

**13** What is your date of birth?

/  /

**14** Where do you live?

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

Country

**15** If your postal address is different to where the child lives, enter details below.

Street address

Suburb

City

Postcode

Country

**16** What are your contact details?

Email

Daytime phone

Mobile phone

### Details of person responsible for child's care *continued ...*

**17** What is your relationship to the child?

**18** Are you responsible for the care of the child?

☐ No      ☐ Yes

**19** Does the child live with you full-time?

☐ No **↓ If No, please provide details regarding living arrangements:**

☐ Yes

## Veteran's Details

These details are to be completed for all first-time applications unless the veteran is the person responsible for the care of the child as listed above.

## 20 Work and Income number

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If you don't know this number, please leave it blank.

**21** What is the veteran's title?

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss Other

**22** What is the veteran's name?

First name

Middle names

Family name

Preferred name

**23** Date of birth

/   /

Date of death

DD/MM/YYYY

## 24 What are the veteran's service details

These details are to be completed for all first-time applications unless the veteran is the person responsible for the care of the child as listed above.

## Checklist

Please complete the checklist below to ensure your application is complete:

- ☐ I have completed the relevant sections of the application form.
-  ☐ I have attached certified copies of the required evidence relevant to my circumstance.
-  ☐ I have attached one of the following: a bank account statement, printout, or letter issued within the last six months that includes the bank's letterhead and stamp, account holder's name and the account number, or a screenshot from a banking app or website that displays all of the following: the account holder's full name, the name or logo of the bank, and the bank account number – for the person who paid the funeral account.
-  ☐ If applicable, I have provided a certified copy of the late veteran's death certificate (if not already provided).
-  ☐ If applicable, the late veteran's Medical Practitioner has completed the Medical Certificate on pages 12–13 and attached medical records to support the application.
- ☐ I have read the Veterans' Affairs Privacy Statement (page 5) on their website at [www.va.mil.nz/privacy](http://www.va.mil.nz/privacy), and have signed the signature fields on page 5.
- ☐ I have written my name and address in the application receipt below (we will return this to you when we receive your application for your records).

↓ **Email your completed application form and any supporting documents to:**

[veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)

OR

↓ **Send your completed application to:**

Veterans' Affairs  
PO Box 5146  
WELLINGTON 6140

## Privacy Statement

Personal information is managed in accordance with the privacy statement on our website [www.va.mil.nz/privacy](http://www.va.mil.nz/privacy). If you would like a copy of the privacy statement posted to you, please email [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz) to request it.

## Signature and acknowledgement

### Signature

This form must be signed either by the claimant or a person with the authority to act on the behalf of the claimant if they are unable to do so.

If the claimant didn't sign the form, **include one** of the following forms of evidence:

- Power of Attorney or Enduring power of Attorney (in relation to Property)
- Certificate of Administration (from the Public Trustee)

### I acknowledge that:

- the information I have given in this claim form is true and correct
- Veterans' Affairs may obtain further information to assess and decide on my claim
- I have read and understood the Privacy Statement for Forms on [www.va.mil.nz/privacy](http://www.va.mil.nz/privacy)
- I authorize the collection and disclosure of health, clinical, or other personal information by or to Veterans' Affairs or by or to named agencies held by any doctor or health practitioner or named agencies, or service providers (such as ACC), or contractors for the purposes set out in the privacy statement; for the purposes of assessment of this claim; administration of any resulting entitlement; and the provision of any services, treatment or rehabilitation under the Veteran's Support Act 2014.
- I have read my obligations in the 'Information for Applicant' section at the start of this form.

### Claimant's or authorised person's signature

Signature of claimant or authorised person:

First names:

Surname:

Today's Date:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | D | / | M | M | / | Y | Y | Y | Y |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

### Helper | Complete this section if you've helped the claimant to complete the form

Helper's relationship to claimant:

First names:

Surname: