

# **Social Rehabilitation Training for Independence**

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# Policy

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy provides guidance on administering eligibility for social rehabilitation related **training for independence** under the Veterans' Support Act 2014. It should be read together with the separate papers on:
- *Rehabilitation Services Eligibility*
  - *Rehabilitation Section of Your Plans*
  - *Social Rehabilitation*

## 2. Legislative Reference

- 2.1 The relevant legislation is the Veterans' Support Act 2014 (the Act), sections 115, 120-124 and 212, and clauses 7 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 2.

## 3. Purpose of Training for Independence

- 3.1 Training for independence involves training and coaching **veterans** to help them adapt to the impact of their **accepted disability** and regain as much **independence** as possible. It is aimed at the veteran who has returned from **qualifying operational service** with complex needs for recuperation and for whom temporary coaching is required until the veteran has received independence or is fit for employment. Training for independence is not a replacement or alternative to **long-term residential care**. If the veteran requires long-term care and assistance (i.e. for longer than 6 weeks), Veterans' Affairs may provide support for the transition to an appropriate residential facility where costs will be borne by the veteran or the relevant health authority or social care agency.
- 3.2 Training for independence should meet the veteran's **service-related** injury/illness needs, not any age-related needs.
- 3.3 Training for independence focuses on maximising participation in their home and community environments. The family and carers receive training alongside the veteran to assist with increasing the veteran's independence and to provide support to the veteran to facilitate use of skills and knowledge gained.
- 3.4 Training for independence covers the following areas of independence:
- **Communication** – conveying and receiving information by using skills such as anger management, assertiveness, the ability to concentrate, language, memory, numeracy, social awareness, social skills and speech production and development, and communications technology

- **Domestic activities** – cleaning, laundry, meal preparation and associated shopping activities in relation to the veteran’s home
- Financial management
- Health care
- Hygiene care
- Mobility
- Motivation
- Safety management
- Sexuality
- The cognitive tasks of daily living, such as orientation, planning and task completion
- Use of transport
- Using and maintaining equipment and aids that have been granted to the veteran and integrating them with the veteran’s daily life.

3.5 Training for independence programmes will be conducted by the appropriate professionals, who may include rehabilitation specialists with expertise in the relevant area of need.

## 4. Eligibility for Training for Independence

4.1 See section 4 of separate paper on Social Rehabilitation.

## 5. Applications for Training for Independence

5.1 The provision of training for independence will be decided on the basis of needs assessments undertaken at the time of a veteran’s application for an entitlement or for rehabilitation services (**see section 6 of the separate paper on Rehabilitation Services Eligibility**).

5.2 In deciding whether to provide or contribute to the cost of training for independence, Veterans’ Affairs will consider:

- any **rehabilitation outcome** that would be achieved by providing it; and
- the extent to which training for independence, and the skills and knowledge likely to be acquired from it, are likely to reduce the veteran’s need for further rehabilitation.

*Clause 14, Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Veterans’ Support Act 2014*

## 6. What Veterans' Affairs will not cover

- 6.1 Veterans' Affairs will not fund training for independence when it is provided by another organisation, such as the Accredited Employment Programme (AEP) (which covers for the first five years unless the illness is late onset), Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) (for accident or injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) linked to a one time event) or the public health system (District Health Board (DHB)), but may consider the funding of some training if there is any additional support required (e.g. if the veteran suffers from an accepted disability that ACC does not cover). Veterans' Affairs may also approach various other organisations to help the veteran achieve independence.
- 6.2 The need for training for independence may be reduced through treatment. This will be weighed up in the needs assessments the veteran undergoes.

## 7. Needs assessment

- 7.1 Training for independence should always be based on an assessment of need. Each programme should run no longer than the time needed to achieve the rehabilitation outcome. The need is expected to be greatest for veterans with **service-related** complex rehabilitation needs and the programme would be expected to start shortly after treatment and basic rehabilitation has commenced, but following the provision of treatment from AEP, ACC or DHB.
- 7.2 The veteran's rehabilitation needs assessment will be conducted by the appropriate professional for the type of rehabilitation required and should indicate:
- why the training is an appropriate option to meet the veteran's assessed needs
  - at what point the training for independence should commence
  - how the training programme will meet or contribute to the veteran's rehabilitation outcomes
  - the recommended timeframe for achieving the outcome of the training for independence
  - the roles of the rehabilitation professionals and/or coaches and skills and disciplines required
  - whether the programme should be community and/or residentially based, depending on whether the veteran needs a residential setting to receive the training
  - the responsibilities of the veteran and of the family/whanau/caregiver who lives with the veteran in managing the rehabilitation process and in training/coaching
  - at what point a progress reassessment is required.

- 7.3 The training for independence programme provider will send progress reports to the Veterans' Affairs Rehabilitation Advisor at agreed timeframes which would be ascertained and agreed with the appropriate professional at the time the training programme is developed.
- 7.4 The programme provider will also send a programme completion report within five working days of the final training for independence session. This report should indicate:
- details of how the provider has ensured the veteran has acquired durable skills
  - confirmation of the support that has reduced as a result of the programme
  - recommendations for further intervention, including alternatives to a training for independence programme, which must include clear predicted outcomes and timeframes.
- 7.5 An independent reassessment by an alternative service provider may then be conducted to review progress against the veteran's rehabilitation outcomes. At this point future programmes, including timeframes, responsibilities and outcomes may be commenced, or alternatives to a training for independence programme may be considered and recorded in the rehabilitation section of the veteran's Your Plan.
- 7.6 If a veteran refuses to participate in the new programme or does not make progress in relation to the achievement of outcomes the training may be cancelled and/or not resumed.

## 8. Veterans Living Overseas

- 8.1 The social rehabilitation training for independence policy applies equally to all New Zealand veterans, irrespective of their country of residence.

## 9. Reviews, Appeals and Complaints

- 9.1 If a veteran disagrees about a decision concerning eligibility for an entitlement or service **see separate policies on Reviews and Appeals**. If a veteran is concerned about Veterans' Affairs' administration of an entitlement or service **see separate policy on Complaints**.

## Glossary

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### **accepted disability** [policy definition]

Means an injury, illness or condition that Veterans' Affairs accepts as being service-related.

### **communication** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Means conveying and receiving information by using skills such as anger management, assertiveness, ability to concentrate, language, memory, numeracy, social awareness, social skills, speech production and development, and using communications technology.

### **domestic activities** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Means cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, and associated shopping activities, in relation to the veteran's home.

### **guardian** [section 7]

Has the same meaning as in section 15 of the Care of Children Act 2004.

### **home** [section 7]

- (a) means residential premises in which the veteran lives and that are owned, rented, or otherwise lawfully occupied by the veteran or the veteran's parent, guardian, spouse or partner; and
- (b) includes residential premises in which the veteran proposes to live after they are built and that will be owned, rented, or otherwise lawfully occupied by the veteran or the veteran's parent, guardian, spouse, or partner; and
- (c) includes any other premises in which the veteran lives and for which the veteran is solely responsible for home maintenance; but
- (d) does not include any hotel or motel, or any hospital, hostel, rest home, or other institution.

### **independence** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Includes the capacity to function in the following areas:

- (a) communication
- (b) domestic activities
- (c) educational participation
- (d) financial management
- (e) health care
- (f) hygiene care
- (g) mobility
- (h) motivation
- (i) safety management
- (j) sexuality
- (k) cognitive tasks of daily living, such as orientation, planning, and task completion
- (l) use of transport.

### **long-term residential care** [section 7]

Has the same meaning as in section 11 of the Residential Care and Disability Support Services Act 2018.

**member of the armed forces** [section 7]

Means a person who is or has been a member of the New Zealand armed force raised by the Governor-General on behalf of the Sovereign,–

- (a) whether in New Zealand or elsewhere; and
- (b) whether before or after the passing of this Act.

**partner** [section 7]

Means a civil union partner or a de facto partner.

**personal care** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Means physical assistance to move around and to take care of basic personal needs such as bathing, dressing, feeding, and toileting.

**qualifying operational service** [section 8]

Means–

- (a) service on any deployment treated as a war or emergency for the purposes of the War Pensions Act 1954; or
- (b) service on any deployment declared to be operational service under section 9.

**qualifying routine service** [section 8]

Means service in the armed forces before 1 April 1974 that is not qualifying operational service.

**rehabilitation outcome** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Means, –

- (a) before an individual rehabilitation plan is agreed, a rehabilitation goal, objective, or result determined by Veterans' Affairs
- (b) if an individual rehabilitation plan is agreed, a goal, objective, or result specified in the plan.

**service-related** [section 7]

In relation to an injury, an illness, a condition, or a whole-person impairment, means an injury, an illness, or a whole-person impairment caused by, contributed to by, or aggravated by qualifying service.

**training for independence** [clause 7 Schedule 2]

Includes–

- (a) training and coaching a veteran to assist in restoring the veteran's independence;
- (b) training in using and maintaining aids or appliances, and integrating them into the veteran's daily life, for a veteran who needs aids or appliances.

**veteran** [section 7]

Means–

- (a) a member of the armed forces who took part in qualifying operational service at the direction of the New Zealand Government; or
- (aa) a member of the armed forces who took part in qualifying routine service before 1 April 1974; or
- (b) a person–
  - (i) who has been–



- (A) appointed as an employee of the Defence Force under section 61A of the Defence Act 1990; or
- (B) seconded to the Defence Force with the permission of the Chief of Defence Force; and
- (ii) who took part in qualifying operational service at the direction of the New Zealand Government; or
- (c) a person who, immediately before the commencement of Part 3 of this Act, is eligible for a pension under the following provisions of the War Pensions Act 1954:
  - (i) section 19 (but only if the person was a member of the forces):
  - (ii) section 55 or 56:
  - (iii) Parts 4 and 5.