

- Our phone line is temporarily operating with reduced hours. You can call us between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday. [Contact us](#)

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- [Get support](#)

The support you may be able to get depends on your circumstances.

[Currently serving](#)

Support while you're still serving.

[Ex-serving](#)

Support once your regular service has finished.

[Family and whānau](#)

Here's how we can support you, and how you can support your family and whānau.

[Non-military personnel](#)

Non-military personnel can have Qualifying Operational Service in certain circumstances.

- [Remembrance](#)

We're proud to honour the service of the veteran community.

[Services Cemeteries and plaques and headstones](#)

We help look after Services Cemeteries. We're also able to contribute towards plaques and headstones.

[Commemorative funding](#)

There are two types of financial contributions available from the Commemorative Fund.

[Medals and service records](#)

The NZ Defence Force's Personnel Archives and Medals team administer medals and hold most New Zealand military service records.

[When someone dies](#)

We may be able to provide support when someone who had Qualifying Service dies.

[Your family's military history](#)

Learning more about your family's military history is a great way to honour their service.

[Certificate of Appreciation and Veterans' Pins](#)

The Certificate of Appreciation and Veteran's Pin recognise operational service.

- [Eligibility](#)

To be eligible to receive support from us, you—or certain family members—need to have Qualifying Service.

[Check your eligibility](#)

Check the support, services, or entitlements you may be able to get from us.

[Qualifying Service](#)

To get support from us you — or certain family members — need to have Qualifying Service.

[Living outside NZ](#)

You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.

[Eligibility criteria for family and dependants](#)

You may be able to get support if you're the spouse, partner, child or dependant of someone with Qualifying Service.

[Veterans of foreign militaries](#)

Veterans' Affairs New Zealand was established to support New Zealand veterans.

- [For clients](#)

We put veterans and our clients at the heart of everything we do.

If you have a question at any stage please contact us—we're here to help.

[How we'll work with you](#)

We'll work with you to help you get the best support available.

[Your treatment card](#)

Your treatment card helps you get no-cost treatment and medication for your approved conditions.

[Your rights and responsibilities](#)

We want to make sure you have the best possible experience when you deal with us.

[Payments](#)

Information on payment rates and dates.

[How we make decisions](#)

We use a number of tools and processes to make decisions. This helps ensure each decision we make is fair and treats our clients consistently.

[Living outside NZ](#)

You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.

[Other benefits](#)

You may be able to access a range of discounts and benefits. Not only that, your family may get access too.

- [For providers](#)

Information for providers of services to Veterans' Affairs and our clients.

[Treatment cards and letters](#)

To help you identify our clients, we issue treatment cards and letters.

[Invoicing us](#)

How to invoice us to ensure we pay you quickly and correctly.

[Treating our clients](#)

Information for healthcare professionals providing treatment to our clients.

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Guidance for councils and local authorities relating to services cemeteries and memorials

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Forms for our clients, family and whānau, and our providers.

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# 100 Years of Poppy Day

## 100 Years of Poppy Day

In 1915 Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer, conducted the funeral service of a friend who had died in the Second Battle of Ypres. Close by poppies blew in the breeze, a symbol of regeneration. McCrae wrote some verses in his notebook. It was the beginning of his famous poem In Flanders fields.

John McCrae's In Flanders fields inspired American Moina Michael and she continued the chain of events beginning at that 1915 funeral.

Moina Michael set out to have the red poppy adopted in the United States as a symbol of remembrance. The American Legion adopted it at its annual convention in 1920. At that convention was Madame Guérin.

A lady in the 20's selling poppies to two men



Photo credit: Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19230503-48-5

Madame Guérin conceived the idea of an Inter-Allied Poppy Day. A day to remember the fallen and also a day which funds could be raised for the women and children of France. She became known as 'The Poppy Lady of France', and she furthered perception of the poppy as an international symbol of remembrance.

Colonel Alfred Moffatt took the idea to the Royal New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association (RNZRSA) in 1921, and subsequently placed an order for silk poppies from Madame Guerin's charity. However, the shipment arrived too late for Armistice Day, so the RNZRSA decided to hold it on the day before Anzac Day. The first New Zealand Poppy Day was held in 1922.

That Poppy Day raised £13,166 (equivalent to \$1.34 million in 2020), of which £3,695 was sent to the people of the former battle grounds in northern France and the remainder went to unemployed New Zealand returned soldiers and their families.

For the following 100 years the Poppy Day Appeal continues to be held on the Friday before Anzac Day and continues to support veterans and their families.

Two service people and a civilian selling poppies



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20 April 2022

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