

- 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.

[Councils and local authorities](#)

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

[Forms](#)

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

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

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[Eligibility](#)

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

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Independence Allowance

Independence Allowance is a regular payment to compensate you for the lasting effect a permanent impairment may have on you and your family.

`{{ controlText }}`

Who can get this

You may be able to get Independence Allowance if you:

- have Qualifying Operational Service after 31 March 1974 outside of Viet Nam
- have a condition related to your Qualifying Operational Service that causes you to have at least a 5% whole-person impairment which is likely to have caused permanent impairment, and
- that condition first happened before 1 April 2002.

[Qualifying Operational Service explained](#)

If you served before 1 April 1974 or in Viet Nam you may be able to get a different type of compensation.

[Weekly Income Compensation](#)

What you can get

Independence Allowance is paid as either:

- a regular payment
- a yearly lump sum.

As a regular payment it is paid:

- every two weeks within NZ
- every four weeks outside of NZ.

[Independence Allowance payment rates](#)

How to apply

1. Complete the Veteran Support form.
2. Get your doctor to fill out the medical sections of the form.
3. Send the application form and any supporting information to us.

[Download the Veteran Support form \[PDF, 888 KB\]](#)

We recommend you also apply to ACC as well as us. If we're unable to accept your claim, you may qualify for ACC's Independence Allowance.

We may top up your ACC Independence Allowance if you also qualify for our Independence Allowance. This also requires for the ACC Independence Allowance to be paying less than what we can do.

What happens next

After you apply we'll:

1. contact you to confirm we've received your application
2. start the decision-making process
3. keep you informed on the status of your application.

If we need more information, we'll get in touch with you.

[How we make decisions](#)

Find out more

[Contact us for more information](#)

We strive to be transparent. If you want to know how this entitlement is administered you can read the policy.

[Independence Allowance policy \[PDF, 390 KB\]](#)

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Veterans' Affairs—Te Tira Ahu Ika A Whiro