

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

- [Contact us](#)
- [News and events](#)
- [Need urgent help now?](#)

Search

Search

- [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.

- [Get support](#)

[Back](#)

[Get support](#)

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

[Currently serving Ex-serving Family and whānau Non-military personnel](#)

- [Remembrance](#)

[Back](#)

[Remembrance](#)

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

[Services Cemeteries and plaques and headstones Commemorative funding Medals and service records](#)

[When someone dies Your family's military history Certificate of Appreciation and Veterans' Pins](#)

- [Eligibility](#)

[Back](#)

[Eligibility](#)

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

[Check your eligibility Qualifying Service Living outside NZ Eligibility criteria for family and dependants](#)

[Veterans of foreign militaries](#)

- [For clients](#)

[Back](#)

[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 Your treatment card Your rights and responsibilities Payments How we make decisions Living outside NZ Other benefits](#)

- [For providers](#)

[Back](#)

[For providers](#)

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

[Treatment cards and letters Invoicing us Treating our clients Councils and local authorities Forms](#)

Search

- [Contact us](#)
- [News and events](#)
- [Need urgent help now?](#)

[Home](#) / [News and events](#) / [Latest news and articles](#) / Viet Nam veteran ex gratia update for March — Information for spouses

Viet Nam veteran ex gratia update for March — Information for spouses

Viet Nam veteran ex gratia update for March — Information for spouses

On this page

[What's happened so far](#) [What's the impact for spouses](#) [How to apply](#) [Applications are processed by priority](#) [More information](#)

Ex gratia payments to surviving spouses where the veteran partner died on or prior to 1 November 2018 and had a diagnosis of MGUS or hypertension

On 30 November 2021, it was announced that two new conditions have been added to the list of Prescribed Conditions eligible for an ex gratia payment under the Vietnam Veterans 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These two new conditions are Hypertension and Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS).

What's happened so far

VA has processed over 700 ex gratia payments of \$40,000 each to current Vietnam veteran clients who had been diagnosed with one of the new conditions when the announcement was made last November.

VA has also received a number of enquiries from surviving spouses and veterans' organisations including RNZRSA and NZVVA, asking whether or not an ex gratia payment is available to a surviving spouse if their veteran partner had been diagnosed with hypertension or MGUS, but passed prior to 1 November 2018 (this is the date that the US National Academy of Sciences added hypertension to the list).

What's the impact for spouses

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets a higher threshold for eligibility for a spouse payment. These payments are smaller than those for veterans who are directly affected, but acknowledge the loss spouses have suffered from the untimely death of their partner. We have looked again at the intent of the MOU, and have clarified that if a Vietnam veteran had been diagnosed with hypertension or MGUS and either of these conditions contributed to the veteran's death, then the surviving spouse can make an application for an ex gratia payment of NZD\$25,000, even if the veteran passed on, or prior to, 1 November 2018. Details on our website including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been updated to reflect this.

[FAQs about the ex gratia payment and MoU](#)

How to apply

Surviving spouses should contact VA to discuss the ex gratia payment application process. The request for an ex gratia payment will require the surviving spouse to provide:

- Their full name
- Postal and email address, and phone number
- The veteran's full name and date of birth
- A copy of the full death certificate showing cause of death
- Consent in writing from the executor of the estate for VA to obtain the veteran's medical records
- A copy of the Letters of Administration/Probate/Will
- Marriage certificate or proof of relationship at time of death
- Bank account details for payment.

Applications are processed by priority

The priority for handling all applications received by VA is to process those received from living veterans first. As such, VA will deal with all applications in the following order of priority:

- Terminal illness
- Mental health
- Financial hardship
- All other applications including new ex gratia payment applications

More information

To find out more, contact us, or read the full FAQs.

[Contact us](#)

[FAQs about the ex gratia payment and MoU](#)

Date

16 March 2022

Tags

- [Spouse or partner](#)
- [Viet Nam](#)

Last Modified: 16 March 2022

[Print](#) [View this page as a PDF](#)

Veterans' Affairs

- [Get support](#)
- [Remembrance](#)
- [Eligibility](#)
- [For clients](#)
- [For providers](#)

Quick links

- [Application forms](#)
- [Check your eligibility](#)
- [Payment dates](#)
- [Payment rates](#)
- [Veterans of foreign militaries](#)

Connect with us

- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Email newsletter](#)

About us

- [About Veterans' Affairs](#)
- [Our documents and publications](#)
- [Work at Veterans' Affairs](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [News](#)

[About this site](#) [Terms of use, privacy and copyright](#) [Style guide](#)

Veterans' Affairs—Te Tira Ahu Ika A Whiro