

Dependant's Pension application information

(Issued under sections 27, 76-80 and 213 of the Veterans' Support Act 2014)

Please read before you complete this form

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

Veterans' Affairs will take into account the dependant's economic position, and the economic position of their spouse or partner, when determining the rate of the Dependant's Pension.

If the dependant is not yet 16 years of age; or if the dependant is 16 years of age or more but suffering from any mental or physical infirmity, payment will be made to the veteran (if the veteran is deceased the person responsible for the care of the dependant), unless Veterans' Affairs considers payment should be made to another person or to trustees. In all other cases payment will be made to the dependant.

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

If your application is incomplete it will be returned to you unprocessed.

Further information can be found in the Dependant's Pension factsheet on our website.

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

Eligibility

(sections 76 & 79,
Veterans' Support
Act 2014)

The dependant of a Scheme One veteran is eligible for the Dependant's Pension if:

- the veteran is receiving a War Disablement Pension of 70% or more; or
- the veteran is receiving a Disablement Pension of 52% or more; or
- the veteran'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 permanent Disablement Pension of 52% or more and
- they meet the definition of dependant.

A child receiving the Children's Pension is not entitled to receive the Dependant's Pension.

Definition

(section 7,
Veterans' Support
Act 2014)

The Veterans' Support Act 2014 defines dependant, in relation to a veteran as:

- a person (not being the spouse, partner, or child of the veteran) who is under 18 years of age; and is wholly or primarily dependent on the veteran for financial support; and ordinarily resides with the veteran:
- a person (not being the spouse, partner, or child of the veteran) who is 18 years of age or more; and is under the care of the veteran; and ordinarily resides with the veteran because the person is unable to live independently of the veteran due to disability, illness or advanced age:
- a person who is a child of the veteran; is 18 years of age or more; and is under the care of the veteran; and is unable to live independently of the veteran due to physical or mental infirmity.

Offences

(sections 270 & 271,
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.

It is an offence not to provide information about changes in earnings that may affect entitlements as soon as practicable and anyone who does so commits an offence against this section and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

Assistance

If you have any questions or require assistance completing this form, you can contact us using the details shown below:

Freephone 0800 483 8372 / 0800 4 VETERANS (or +64 4 495 2070 if calling from overseas)

You can email: veterans@nzdf.mil.nz or visit our website: www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz

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Completing your application

If the dependant is not yet 16 years of age; or if the dependant 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 dependant ("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 5).

In all other cases the dependant ("the applicant") must complete and sign the application form themselves.

Step 1:

Read page 3 of the Information Sheet regarding documentation required and completion of the application form.

Complete page 1, 2 and 3 of the application form if applicable; read the Privacy Statement on page 4 and complete the Signature & Acknowledgement on page 5.

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 6, then send your fully completed application and all supporting documentation to VA 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

(section 11 & 77,
Veterans' Support
Act 2014)

Veterans' Affairs will make a decision on your claim within **30 working days** of receipt of the application. However, the 30 working days does not include any period while Veterans' Affairs is waiting for further information that it requires to determine whether to accept the claim.

If an application is accepted by Veterans' Affairs, the entitlement to the Dependant'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.

Rate of the Dependant's Pension

Veterans' Affairs will take into account the dependant's economic position, and the economic position of their spouse or partner, when determining the rate of the Dependant's Pension.

The veteran's income is not considered when Veterans' Affairs is assessing a dependant's income.

Information on the payment rate can be found on our website.

Dependant children who are over 18

Dependant children of the veteran who are over 18 and:

- a) under the care of the veteran, and
- b) unable to live independently of the veteran due to mental or physical infirmity

are entitled to the Dependant's Pension but are encouraged to apply for the Children's Pension over the Dependant's Pension because it is not income tested and is paid at a higher rate. An applicant can not receive both pensions.

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Documents required with a first-time application

A **first-time** application for a Dependant's Pension must include the following documentation

- Certified copy of identification such as a current passport, drivers licence, community services card, for the applicant i.e. the person the pension is to be paid to (if not already provided).
- Certified copy of the dependant's full birth certificate.
- 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 the dependant and/or their spouse/partner earn wages or a salary they must provide an IRD statement which includes the amount earned before tax (the gross amount), the period the wages or salary covers, and their employer's details.
- The dependant and their spouse/partner must also provide a signed declaration confirming their income from all other sources.
- If applicable, a certified copy of the late veteran's death certificate (if not already provided).

In addition the following evidence of dependence is required:

Person under 18 years of age (not spouse/partner or child of the veteran)

- Evidence¹ that the person is wholly or primarily dependant on the veteran² for financial support; and ordinarily resides with the veteran.

Person 18 years or age or more who is unable to live independently due to disability, illness or advanced age (not spouse/partner or child of the veteran)

- Evidence¹ that the person is under the care of the veteran²; and ordinarily resides with the veteran because the person is unable to live independently of the veteran due to disability, illness or advanced age.

Child of the veteran 18 years or age or more who suffers from physical or mental infirmity

- Evidence¹ that the child is under the care of the veteran²; and is unable to live independently of the veteran due to physical or mental infirmity.

¹ Evidence can include but is not limited to statutory declaration/s; custody documentation; letter from a lawyer; medical evidence from a medical practitioner etc.

² If the veteran is deceased the person responsible for the care of the dependant.

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.

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.

Dependant's Details

1 Work and Income / Client Number (if known)

2 Title Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other
(tick)

3 Surname

4 Given Name/s

5 Date of Birth / /

6 Address and Contact Details

Postal Address

Physical Address

Daytime Contact Number

Mobile Number

E-mail Address

7 Relationship to veteran

Application Type

8 Current Situation Indicate the situation that applies to this Dependant's Pension application

- First-time application for a person under 18 years of age (not spouse/partner or child of the veteran)
- First-time application for a person 18 years or age or more who is unable to live independently due to disability, illness or advanced age (not spouse/partner or child of the veteran)
- First-time application for a child of the veteran 18 years or age or more who suffers from physical or mental infirmity

! If a Dependant'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 Bank Details *This will be the account the Dependant's Pension will be paid into if granted*

Name of Bank

Branch

Account Name

 Write your bank account number below and attach an original or certified copy of your bank statement showing the account number and name **OR** a pre printed deposit slip stamped by your bank.

Bank				Branch				Account number							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Details of person responsible for dependant's care

10 Work and Income / Client Number (if known)

11 Title Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other
(tick)

12 Surname

13 Given Name/s

14 Date of Birth / /

15 Address and Contact Details

Postal Address

Physical Address

Daytime Contact Number

Mobile Number

E-mail Address

16 Relationship and Living Arrangements

What is your relationship to the dependant?

What is/was your relationship to the veteran (if applicable)?

Are you responsible for the care of the dependant? No Yes

Does the dependant live with you full-time? No Yes

If No, please provide details regarding living arrangements:

Veteran's Details

These details are to be completed for all first-time applications, unless the veteran is responsible for the care of the dependant as listed above. *If the veteran is deceased and was not on a pension with VA, please provide the veteran's service number and military service i.e. Army, Navy, Air Force.

17 Work and Income / Client Number (if known)

18 Title Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other
(tick)

19 Surname

20 Given Name/s

21 Date of Birth / /

22 Date of Death / / (If known and applicable)

23 *Service details

Dependant's Income

Assessing the rate of pension

For the purposes of determining the rate of Dependant's Pension VA will take into account the criteria set out in regulations 21 to 25 of the Veterans' Support Regulations 2014.

- If a dependant's and their spouse/partner's weekly income is equal to or less than 50% of the maximum rate of the Dependant's Pension, the dependant will be paid the maximum rate.
- For every dollar a dependant and/or their spouse/partner earns over 50% of the maximum rate, the pension rate is deducted \$1 for every \$1 over the 50% threshold.
- If a dependant and/or their spouse/partner earns more than 150% of the maximum rate of the Dependant's Pension the pension ceases to be paid.

24 Weekly income

Did you (the dependant) and/or your spouse/partner receive income from any source in the last 52 weeks?

No Yes If Yes, please provide details below

(Income includes but is not limited to, income from employment, income derived from assets and any benefit paid to you by the Ministry of Social Development)

Dependant's Source of Income	Gross Income Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Spouse/Partner's Source of Income	Gross Income Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Privacy Statement

The Veterans' Support Act 2014 (the Act) which is administered by the New Zealand Defence Force allows us to obtain further information about you to help us assess your application. This may happen when you apply for or are receiving an entitlement. The Privacy Act 1993 requires us to tell you why we collect the information and what we will do with it.

You are not required to give Veterans' Affairs any information, but if you do not provide all the information we ask for, your application for an entitlement and/or assistance may not be able to be processed and may be returned to you.

Why we collect information

The information we collect about you will be held by Veterans' Affairs New Zealand (Veterans' Affairs), which is a unit of the New Zealand Defence Force. We use this information for the purpose of:

- Administering claims and entitlements under the Veterans' Support Act 2014
- Enabling a comprehensive claims database to be maintained
- To monitor and evaluate the nature, incidence, severity and consequences of service-related illness and injuries
- The provision of appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and compensation
- Facilitating the monitoring of the operation of the Act and policy development
- The information you give us may be shared with other government agencies for several purposes, such as the Ministry of Social Development – consistency with other benefits, Accident Compensation Commission – consistency with other claims, Maritime New Zealand – for merchant navy records, Inland Revenue – for payment of tax on taxable entitlements, Archives New Zealand – for service records and the Department of Internal Affairs – to verify your date of birth.

We only collect information needed to manage the entitlements we administer.

Using and sharing personal and health-related information

Veterans' Affairs may exchange information about you with your health practitioner(s) in order to provide you with the correct entitlements and assistance, to clarify any health-related information you give us and for the purposes of putting in place treatment and rehabilitation if required.

Veterans' Affairs will also collect personal and health information from a variety of sources including information provided when making an application to Veterans' Affairs, information supplied by others including treatment providers, and other government agencies.

The information we collect about you can be via various channels, such as email, telephone, face to face and in various formats, such as letters, forms and electronic file notes.

Veterans' Affairs uses personal information provided only for the purposes consistent with the reason it was obtained and will not share it with other parties unless there is a legal authority to do so.

You have the right to access and correct your personal information

You may access personal information that we hold about you. You can ask us to correct errors contained in the information we have about you.

You can contact us at anytime if you have concerns on what information about you we are collecting and how it is or may be used.

Please complete the Signature & Acknowledgement on page 5



Signature & Acknowledgement

By signing this application form I acknowledge and understand that:

- The information provided in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge, true and complete.
- As part of processing this application, Veterans' Affairs may obtain further information in addition to what I have provided.
- I am consenting to the release and collection of health, clinical or other information to Veterans' Affairs held by any health practitioner or provider, hospital, clinic, insurance company, the Accident Compensation Commission, the Ministry of Social Development, the Department of Internal Affairs or other persons or agencies for the purposes of assessing and processing this application and administering any resulting entitlement or assistance.
- I am aware there are penalties for providing false information as set out in the information sheet at the front of this application.
- I have read and understand the Privacy Statement contained in this form.
- The Power of Attorney or Enduring Power of Attorney document attached to this application is current (where the application is being signed by a person holding this document).

Applicant or Power of Attorney's name (print)

Signature

Date

If you had assistance completing this form, print the persons name (and organisation they represent if applicable) below:

If the applicant is unable to sign due to physical or mental incapacity, the application must be signed by a person with authority to act on behalf of the applicant. If this situation applies you must also attach a certified copy of at least one of the following documents:

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

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 an original or certified copy of my bank statement OR a pre printed deposit slip stamped by my bank.
 - I have read the Privacy Statement on page 4 and completed the Signature & Acknowledgement 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).

Send your completed application to:

Veterans' Affairs
PO Box 5146
Lambton Quay
WELLINGTON 6140

Dependant's Pension Application Receipt

This is to acknowledge Veterans' Affairs has received your application. Provided no further information is required you will be advised of a decision within 30 working days.

Please write your name and address details below:

Office Date Stamp