

# The Veterans' Independence Programme

The Veterans' Independence Programme can help veterans stay independent in their homes.

- It's for veterans with qualifying operational service, or service before 1 April 1974
- It replaces former concessions and allowances under the War Pensions Act
- If you were getting those, you'll get the same types of service under the Veterans' Independence Programme

## Qualifying for services

To get help from this Programme you must:

- need the help to stay independent at home; and
- live at home (you'll stop getting this help if you move out of home for good—for example, into a rest home).

We can talk with you about whether the Programme will meet your needs.

## Getting services

When you go onto the Programme, we'll talk with you about your needs and identify the services that may help you live independently.

The Programme can help you with costs of:

- adaptive clothing and footwear
- home adaptations (for ramps or rails)
- home help (such as housework)
- home and section upkeep
- medical alarms
- short-term attendant care (such as basic foot care including nail clipping)
- travel (see factsheets on Travel Concessions and Travel Allowance).

There are some limits to what we'll pay. For a large house or property, for example, we may not be able to pay the full upkeep costs. But a case manager can talk to you about options.

In deciding what to pay, we must treat all veterans equally.

## Service providers

Some services, such as gardening, have been contracted to specific providers under a master agreement.

For some other services you can currently choose your provider, or Veterans' Affairs can arrange one for you.

## Spouse or partner

If you enter a hospice or hospital care, your partner may be able to keep getting your services.

In the sad event of your passing, if you were living at home at that time, your spouse or partner may be able to keep your services (for up to 12 months, and as needed).

**For further help or to request other factsheets contact Veterans' Affairs:**  
**Freephone 0800 483 8372 / 0800 4 VETERANS (or +64 4 495 2070 from overseas)**  
**Email: [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)**  
**Website: [www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz) (factsheets available here)**