

MARCH 2017

2 NO DUFF MEETS MINISTER

Hon David Bennett, met with Aaron Wood and Lars Millar from No Duff earlier this year.



3 SPOTLIGHT ON RECENT QUALIFYING OPERATIONAL SERVICE



CHIEF OF STAFF REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMY VISITS NEW ZEALAND



During a visit to New Zealand by General Jang Jun Gyu, Chief of Staff Republic of Korea Army, a lunch was hosted by the Chief of Army, MAJGEN Peter Kelly, for the visiting Korean delegation and some New Zealand veterans who served in the Korean War. The veterans were presented with a medal as well as a gift by the visiting Korean delegation. *See full article on page 2.*

NEW RATES

From 1 April 2017 new rates, adjusted for Consumers Price Index (CPI) inflation, will come into effect for:

- Grand-parented entitlements from the War Pensions Act 1954
- Scheme One entitlements
- Entitlements common to Scheme One and Two
- Veteran's Pension and Lump Sums

See the insert

New rates for Scheme Two entitlements will take affect from 1 July 2017, and will be published in the June edition of Veterans' Affairs News.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hon David Bennett, Minister of Veterans' Affairs

It is an honour and a privilege for me to have recently been appointed as the Minister of Veterans' Affairs and to continue the work of my predecessor, Hon Craig Foss. In the short time since my appointment, I have enjoyed the interactions with veterans and their families, including some of our newer veterans. To hear about their deployments, has given me a good insight into the contribution our service people have made, and continue to make, to protect our way of life.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association

and No Duff. We owe a great debt to our veterans. These two organisations continue to be strong advocates who support those who served our country, and those who are currently serving.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB) as their examination into the government policy on repatriation concludes. The process has been very thorough and the consultation extensive. In particular, I would like to thank the families of those buried overseas who have told of their experiences and shared their stories.

As we head into April, we will be approaching the 102nd anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings. I am aware Anzac Day preparations are underway in New Zealand and around the globe to commemorate the sacrifices made



over a century ago. It will be a time for us to reflect on the courage and commitment shown by those who served and continue to serve in the name of peace and freedom.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Thank you for your service in the New Zealand Defence Force. Your contribution on behalf of our nation is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

NO DUFF MEETS WITH MINISTER

Minister of Veterans' Affairs, the Hon David Bennett, met with Aaron Wood and Lars Millar from No Duff earlier this year.

"We were expecting a simple grip and grin, a meet and greet" says Aaron.

"He's only had the portfolio for a



Lars Millar, the Hon David Bennett, Aaron Wood

month, and this was the first time he's met No Duff."

"However we were pleasantly surprised at his level of interest in veterans welfare and desire to learn more about veterans from

veterans themselves with a view towards improving the NZ veterans welfare space."

In the meeting, the Minister asked No Duff to provide him with advice on a number of issues moving forward.

For more information on No Duff, see previous editions of *Veterans' Affairs News* or visit their website www.noduff.co.nz

In 12 months No Duff has spent



629 hours of volunteer time on 83 responses

"THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY COUNTRY"

Long-term friends and allies meet in Trentham

A long-standing and committed relationship was reinforced in February when General Jang Jun Gyu, Chief of Staff Republic of Korea Army, met up with Korean veterans and serving Army personnel in Wellington.

At the visit, a lunch hosted by Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly, veterans were presented with medals and gifts by the visiting Korean delegation.

During the visit to New Zealand General Jang was welcomed with a powhiri and inspected a Guard at the

Wellington War Memorial. Wreaths were also laid.

Former National President of the New Zealand Korean Veterans' Association, Mr Des Vinten said the meeting was a memorable experience, and he felt "quite privileged" to meet General Jang. He spoke with the General, who said "Thank you for saving my country."

New Zealand's defence relationship with Korea dates back to our involvement in the Korean War. New Zealand was one of the first nations to respond to the UN Security Council's call for assistance, and the country was the second largest troop contributor per capita.

Initially New Zealand sent two frigates to serve in Korean waters, however it soon became obvious that the provision of ground forces was needed. Servicemen of 16th Field Regiment arrived in Korea on 31 December 1950, along with 10 Transport Company and a Divisional Signals detachment.

The 16th Field Regiment first saw

action a month later and remained on active service for the next two and a half years. The Regiment's most famous battle was Kapyong in support of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in April 1951.

After the Armistice was signed in 1954, New Zealand's contribution was gradually reduced. The 16th Field Regiment and other elements were withdrawn in 1955, with the final elements returning to New Zealand in 1957.

The bilateral relationship continues today through a programme of engagement that includes high-level visits, ship visits, defence talks, bilateral and multilateral exercises and training activities. New Zealand is also increasing links with Korean defence industry. Hyundai is currently building New Zealand's replacement naval tanker in Busan. New Zealand continues to support peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula today through the deployment of five New Zealand Defence Force officers to the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission.

Review of Act's Operation

An independent reviewer will shortly be appointed to review the operation of the Veterans' Support Act 2014. Preliminary work is now underway, and there'll soon be an opportunity for veterans to give feedback about how the Act is working for them.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

New Zealand veterans have served throughout the world. Here's some examples of recent Qualifying Operational Service.

To see the full list visit www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz

Examples of recent Qualifying operational Service

1	Afghanistan	1/12/2001 – present day
2	Arabian Sea	1/3/2003 – 31/7/2003 1/4/2004 – 31/8/2004 1/5/2008 – 31/8/2008
3	East Timor	30/08/1999 – present day
4	Sinai	1/12/2004 – present day
5	Solomon Islands	1/7/2003 – present day
6	Sudan	17/9/2005 – 9/7/2011: United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) 9/7/2011 – present day: Service in South Sudan

PICKING UP YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

We have been hearing from many of our veterans, that local pharmacies continue to charge some veterans up front for their prescription medicines. It's timely to remind all our veterans that prescription services are now coordinated through Green Cross Health. This arrangement means that you are able to pick up your prescriptions for service-related conditions free of charge.

Whilst we continue to work closely

with Green Cross Health, if you find that you are asked to pay for your medications for your service-related conditions, you can remind your pharmacy that they should charge Green Cross Health directly. If you have any concerns about these arrangements, or are finding that your pharmacy is still charging you



up front, please call us directly on Freephone 0800 483 8372.

INCREASE IN RSA GRANTS SUGGESTS MOUNTING HARDSHIP



Returned and service personnel and their families have made a significant number more RSA grant applications in 2016, in comparison to the previous year. This increase suggests some in our ex-service community are facing mounting hardship, RSA says.

“Compared to 2015, we have had far more applications for grants by eligible persons and their families,” says Danny Nelson, RSA Support Services Strategic Advisor. “The fact we are seeing more contemporary veterans applying is significant.

“Especially since the main reason appears to be because of hardship issues generally bought on by deeper problems,” he explains.

“These are associated with combat trauma, including Post Traumatic Stress Injuries (PTSI), as well as physical injuries.”

The RNZRSA administers a number of trusts for the purpose of supporting returned and service personnel, their dependents and families, regardless of whether they are members of the RSA or if they have operational service. The guiding principle behind

the granting of financial assistance is need. Assistance in the relief of social and medical hardship and the advancement of education are the main criteria for considering assistance, although other situations will be considered on their merits.

In 2015 there were 21 applications for grants from the Poppy and RNZRSA general trusts with a total of \$37,607 paid out, while in 2016 this number grew to 73 with \$141,989 granted. Contemporary veterans (those who have served in the military post Vietnam), are increasingly coming to the attention of RSA support advisors.

“In the latter half of 2016, contemporary veterans made up about 50% of applicants seeking financial assistance in one form or another,” says Danny.

“The perception of the RSA only assisting older veterans to get dentures and walking sticks is well and truly over.”

However, Danny believes the work for the RSA doesn't stop here, and even more can be done in regards to trust grants.

“We know there is a whole generation of post-Vietnam current and ex-service people who will be suffering from hardship and both mental and physical injuries, who could benefit

from trust grants, as well as ensuring our older veterans are looked after in their retirement.

“My measure of success for 2017 will be to double the funds granted to veterans and their families. This requires local RSAs and the community to refer service and ex-service people who need financial help to us.”

UPCOMING MILESTONES AND COMMEMORATIONS

APRIL 11 75th anniversary of the formation of the Women's RNZN Service

APRIL 21 Poppy Day

APRIL 25 Anzac Day – 102nd anniversary of the Gallipoli landings

For information on what's happening in New Zealand visit www.rsa.org.nz/find-an-anzac-day-service

For information on overseas commemorations visit www.wv100.govt.nz/international-commemorations

35 years of New Zealand contribution to the Multi-national Force and Observers (MFO)

MAY 11 50th anniversary of the arrival of New Zealand infantry in Viet Nam

JUNE 07 Centenary of the Battle of Messines

For more information visit www.wv100.govt.nz/international-commemorations

Viet Nam veterans reminded of AMA

Veterans' Affairs wishes to remind Viet Nam veterans of their entitlement to an Annual Medical Assessment (AMA).

“We're aware of a number of Viet Nam veterans who have stopped taking advantage of a free AMA”, says Pat Povey, Manager Veterans Services.

“We want to ensure their health and wellbeing is being monitored, so it is vital that as many Viet Nam veterans

as possible continue to have these regular checks.” Pat encourages Viet Nam veterans who haven't yet registered with us, or who haven't had an AMA for the last few years to get in touch.

“They can contact us on 0800 483 8372 or through our website.”



Pat Povey, Manager Veterans Services

Thank you for your service in the New Zealand Defence Force. Your contribution on behalf of our nation is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

GRAND-PARENTED RATES FROM 1 APRIL 2017

WAR DISABLEMENT PENSION

Ordinary rates

Disablement(%)	Weekly Rate(\$)
5	11.02
10	22.05
15	33.07
20	44.09
25	55.12
30	66.14
35	77.16
40	88.18
45	99.21
50	110.23
55	121.25
60	132.28
65	143.30
70	154.32
75	165.35
80	176.37
85	187.39
90	198.41
95	209.44
100	220.46

Rates for those with Severe Disablement

Disablement(%)	Weekly Rate(\$)
105	231.48
110	242.50
115	253.52
120	264.55
125	275.57
130	286.59
135	297.62
140	308.64
145	319.66
150	330.68
155	341.71
160	352.73

Rates for those with Severe Disablement: Aged 60 Years and over

Disablement(%)	Weekly Rate(\$)
105	254.63
110	266.75
115	278.87
120	291.01
125	303.13
130	315.25
135	327.38
140	339.50
145	351.63
150	363.75
155	375.88
160	388.00

ALLOWANCE FOR DECORATIONS

	Weekly Rate(\$)
Allowance for Decorations	31.64

Note: The Allowance for Decorations is available for recipients of United Kingdom Gallantry Awards only.

SCHEME ONE ENTITLEMENT RATES FROM 1 APRIL 2017

DISABLEMENT PENSION

Impairment Rating(%)	Weekly Rate(\$)
5-7	11.03
8-12	22.05
13-17	33.07
18-22	44.09
23-25	55.12
26-30	66.14
31-32	77.16
33-37	88.18
38-41	99.21
42-47	110.23
48-49	121.25
50	132.27
51	143.30
52-54	154.32
55-57	165.34

Impairment Rating(%)	Weekly Rate(\$)
58-61	176.37
62-66	187.39
67	198.42
68-74	209.43
75	220.46
76	231.48
77	242.51
78	253.52
79	264.55
80	275.57
81	297.61
82	319.66
83	341.70
84	363.76
85-100	388.00

OTHER WEEKLY PAYMENTS

	Weekly Rate (\$)
Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension	162.63
Dependant's Pension	162.63
Children's Pension	174.14
Weekly Income Compensation	903.78

ANNUAL PAYMENTS

	Annual Rate (\$)
Children's Bursary (Orphans and Children of Veteran's Pension)	
Full Time Year 9-13	920.38
Full-time Tertiary	1,092.14
Part-time Tertiary	460.14
Children's Bursary (Other Children)	
Full Time Year 9-13	460.16
Full-time Tertiary	546.04
Part-time Tertiary	230.06



RATES FOR ENTITLEMENTS COMMON TO SCHEME ONE AND SCHEME TWO

FROM 1 APRIL 2017

WEEKLY RATES

	Weekly Rate(\$)
Battery Allowance	
Monaural	1.07
Binaural	2.16
Clothing Allowance	
Loss of two limbs or parts	23.41
Loss of leg or part	22.59
Loss of arm or part	16.37
Use of mechanical appliance (maximum)	16.37
Soiling of clothing	16.37
Travelling Allowance	25.41

LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

	Lump sum(\$)
Retirement Lump Sum	33,723.32
Asset Threshold for Couple (excl. house or vehicle)	306,575.61
Asset Threshold for Single or Couple (incl. house or vehicle)	510,959.36
Motor Vehicle Grant	
Total Lower Body Impairment	18,880.92
Severe Lower Body Impairment	8,496.97
Motor Vehicle Fitting Controls Grant	3,048.47
Funeral Expenses	
Funeral Expenses	2,482.43
Transportation of body within same locality	660.51
Transportation of body to a different locality	1,321.00

VETERAN'S PENSION AND LUMP SUMS



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATU WHAKAHIATO ORA

	Gross Weekly Rate(\$)
Veteran's Pension	
Single living alone rate	450.10
Single sharing accommodation rate	413.60
Relationship rate	340.80
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension)	645.56
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension) legacy rate	681.60

Lump Sums

	Lump sum(\$)
Lump Sum Payment on death of veteran	5,885.04
If veteran was, before 1 April 1990, receiving a war veteran's allowance under the War Pension's Act 1954	14,838.65
Lump Sum Payment on death of spouse or partner of veteran	4,487.51

QUESTIONS ABOUT VETERAN'S PENSION AND LUMP SUMS

For information about the Veteran's Pension and Lump Sum Payments contact the Veterans' Pension Centre.



Freephone 0800 650 656



www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/contact-us/veterans-contacts.html

CHANGES TO PAYMENTS FOR SCHEME ONE AND COMMON ENTITLEMENTS

New Zealand bank accounts

MAR 21	Last payment made in full under the old 2016 rates.
APR 04	Payments will be made as a mix of new and old rates. You may see two payments in your account.
APR 18	Payments will be made in full under the new rates

Overseas bank accounts

MAR 07	Last payment made in full under the old 2016 rates.
APR 04	Payments will be made as a mix of new and old rates. You may see two payments in your account.
MAY 02	Payments will be made in full under the new rates.

As the fortnightly pensions and other entitlements are paid one week in arrears and one week in advance the first pension payment date post 1 April (4 April 2017) will be a split period.

