

Vietnam Veterans – Checklist Following a Veterans Death

Courtesy Nelson RSA

Before Death, note the following:

- Service Number
- Full Name
- War Disability Pension (WDP) Number
- Disability Percentage
- Doctor's Name
- Doctor's Telephone Number
- Veteran Affairs Case Manager's Name

Upon Death, notify the following:

- Veteran Affairs – WDP Ph: 0800 483 8372 Email: veterans@NZDF.mil.nz
- Ministry of Social Development/Veteran Pension Ph: 0800 650 656
- Your local RSA

Widow/Partner may be eligible for the following:

1. Surviving Spouse or Partner's Pension – where veteran's death was service related.
2. Travel – Visitors Travel – to help with travel costs, visiting a veteran in long-term hospital care.
3. Work – veterans may be able to access training and support for back-to-work for up to three years if the veteran partner is unable to work or has passed away from a service related cause.
4. Veterans Independence Programme Services – may be kept by veterans as needed for a limited period
 - upon the veteran entering hospice or hospital care, or
 - on the veteran's death if the veteran was living at home then.
5. Funeral – help with funeral costs – must have served before 1 April 1974.
\$2,482.43 as at 3 April 2017
6. Lump Sum Payment (upon Death of veteran or spouse)
 - Veteran \$5,885.04 as at 3 April 2017
 - Spouse \$4,487.51 as at 3 April 2017
 - Also, if veteran was, before 1 April 1990, receiving a war veterans allowance under the War Pension Act 1954, payment of \$14,838.65 as at 3 April 2017
7. Interment in a Service's Cemetery, may be arranged for a Veteran and Spouse or Partner. Memorials for interment in a Service's Cemetery, may be arranged (with costs covered by VA) for Veterans/Spouse/Partner. Where internment is in a Public or Private cemetery, VA may help with cost of a memorial. Arrange all of this with your Funeral House, VA or local RSA
8. Families of Vietnam Veterans may be able to access Support for Families recognising hardship, suffering or loss from a veteran's service; **or** Grants to relieve poverty or hardship (from the Vietnam Veterans and Families Trust – MOSD website).
9. If the veteran has whole person impairment of at least 52%, there may be benefits for families including automatic entitlement for Community Services Card for Partner

RSA Support Services (People Helping People)

RSA help past and present servicemen and women including NZ Police. Dependents are also eligible for assistance. RSA Support is managed through the veterans local RSA District Support Advisors. Local RSA support can include, financial support, advocacy and supportive discussions on War Disability Claims or Reviews.

RSA also provide help for Ex Commonwealth and Allied Servicemen and Women through Trusts and Poppy funds. Veterans need not be a member of the RSA to qualify for RSA Support.