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11 August 2014

Ref No: SWP 048 14-15

Mr Don McIver  
[donm@rsa.org.nz](mailto:donm@rsa.org.nz)

Dear Don

Thank you for our recent discussions regarding the Veterans' Support Act (the Act), the transitional provisions and how these changes will affect veterans and their families.

As you are aware the Act has completed readings in the House and received Royal assent on 7 August 2014. I am please to advise you Scheme One of the Act will commence on 7 December 2014.

Work is continuing on the regulations and operational policy that will support the Act. As part of the development, work is being undertaken to determine the comparable whole-person impairment rate that is parallel to the 100% rate for a war disablement pension (WDP). We will continue to regularly update the Veterans' Affairs New Zealand website ([www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz)), so there is publically available information for those that would like to access it regarding the new veterans' support scheme. A special edition of VANZ News will be published in December this year, focusing on what the changes will mean for veterans and their families.

I wish to reassure you, a veteran who is receiving the WDP under the 1954 Act will continue to be entitled to receive that pension, as if the 1954 Act had not been repealed, pursuant to clause 4B in Schedule 1 of the Act. All other pensions, concessions or allowances that a veteran is in receipt of will continue to be payable if they are receiving those prior to the commencement of the Veterans' Support Act, pursuant to clause 3 of the same Schedule.

A veteran who transfers from the WDP to the disablement pension (DP) under the Act who has been receiving concessions or allowances under the 1954 Act, such as the travel concession, will continue to receive those entitlements when they transfer to the DP. This will continue regardless of their newly assessed whole-person impairment.

I hope this provides clarity around some of the concerns veterans may have about the new Act. As I said earlier, we will be releasing a special edition of VANZ News in December to explain the changes veterans and their families can expect and we are also hoping to have in depth FAQ's available soon on our website.

As always, let's make sure we keep in touch about any concerns you or your members might have, so we can get the right information out to veterans and their families.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacki Couchman', written in a cursive style.

Jacki Couchman  
Secretary for War Pensions