

War Disablement Pension

The War Disablement Pension is available to eligible veterans under the War Pensions Act 1954 (the 1954 Act) until 6 December 2014. From the 7 December 2014 this pension will be replaced by the Disablement Pension which will be available to eligible veterans under the Veterans' Support Act 2014 (the 2014 Act).

What if I want to transfer from the War Disablement Pension to the Disablement Pension?

If you are receiving a War Disablement Pension you may apply for a Disablement Pension at any time. Please refer to the [Disablement Pension fact sheet](#) for further information.

Will my current War Disablement Pension payments reduce if I transfer to a Disablement Pension?

No, your current payment rate will continue at the same amount you are receiving now. In other words your current payment rate is grand parented under the 2014 Act.

What if I want to remain on the War Disablement Pension?

You do not have to transfer to the Disablement Pension and may remain on the War Disablement Pension. **However**, if you apply for a new condition or the reassessment of an accepted condition you will be transferred on to a Disablement Pension.

What happens if I apply for a new condition or the reassessment of an accepted condition while I am receiving a War Disablement Pension?

Regardless of the outcome of the application, you will be transferred on to a Disablement Pension. Applications for a new condition will be determined using the decision-making process set out in the 2014 Act (see How will my Disablement Pension application be assessed under the 2014 Act? below).

If you are granted a Disablement Pension on a temporary basis, your disablement is subject to periodic reassessment. Veterans' Affairs will write to you when you need to be reassessed and a Veterans' Affairs Case Manager will be in contact with you to discuss your rehabilitation support and service needs.

If you are granted a Disablement Pension on a permanent basis, Veterans' Affairs may reassess your disablement from time to time, but generally cannot do so earlier than two years after either granting you a permanent Disablement Pension or after your last whole-person impairment assessment. However, Veterans' Affairs can reassess you earlier if your disablement has changed significantly and medical evidence supports a 10% change in your whole-person impairment.

Under these circumstances applications for the reassessment of disablement (because of significant changes due to existing conditions or a new condition) can be made at any time.

How will my Disablement Pension application be assessed under the 2014 Act?

The decision-making process and tools are different from those that were used to determine applications for a War Disablement Pension. Veterans' Affairs will continue to use the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (AMA Guides) to assess the individual rate of impairment for each accepted condition, with consideration of both the nature and extent of the condition.

The individual rates of impairment will be converted into a whole-person impairment rating of up to 100%. This differs from the War Disablement Pension assessment process, where each level of disablement awarded for a condition was added together, allowing veterans with multiple disablements to have a disablement level of more than 100%.

If you are currently receiving a War Disablement Pension and apply for a new condition or the reassessment of an accepted condition your level of disablement will become a level of whole-person impairment. The percentage rating will be different (and probably lower). However, your current payment rate will **not** be reduced.

Example One

If a veteran has condition A at 30% and condition B at 40% accepted, rather than having an overall impairment rating of 70%, their conditions will be converted into a whole-person impairment rating of 58% for the Disablement Pension using the combined values charts contained in the AMA Guides rather than simple addition.

Example Two

A veteran is currently receiving a War Disablement Pension 110%. This includes seven accepted conditions with the following impairment ratings 25%, 20%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 10% and 10%.

The veteran applies for a transfer to the Disablement Pension and their conditions are converted into a whole-person impairment rating of 70% using the combined values charts contained in the AMA Guides. Veterans with multiple disablements who transfer to a Disablement Pension cannot have a whole-person impairment rating of more than 100%.

Example Three

A veteran is currently receiving a War Disablement Pension 290%. This includes 12 accepted conditions with the following impairment ratings 60%, 50%, 50%, 40% 35%, 20%, 10% 5%, 5%, 5%, 5% and 5%.

The veteran applies to have one of their accepted conditions reassessed and their conditions are converted into a whole-person impairment rating of 97% using the combined values charts

contained in the AMA Guides. Veterans with multiple disablements who transfer to a Disablement Pension cannot have a whole-person impairment rating of more than 100%.

What happens to the allowances, grants, loans or concessions I was receiving with my War Disablement Pension?

A veteran who moves from a War Disablement Pension to a Disablement Pension will continue to receive any allowances, grants, loans or concessions, granted before 7 December 2014.

If a veteran is eligible for a recurring Motor Vehicle Loan under the 1954 Act, their qualifying disablement is retained, however, they will be subject to further eligibility criteria see the [Motor Vehicle Grant fact sheet](#) for more information.

What if a Veteran receiving a War Disablement Pension has a terminal service-related condition?

A veteran who is receiving a War Disablement Pension **and** has a terminal service-related condition is eligible to receive the maximum rate payable of the War Disablement Pension (equivalent to the maximum rate of the Disablement Pension). A terminal medical condition means an advanced progressive disease likely to cause death within a 12-month period.

In this case the veteran may elect to suspend their pension payments at any time and receive a one off lump sum payment equivalent to the total of the War Disablement Pension at the maximum rate payable for the coming 12-month period.

In the unfortunate event that the veteran dies before the 12 month period ends, there will be no expectation for repayment of any of the lump sum payment. If the veteran survives the 12 month period, their Disablement Pension or War Disablement Pension will resume at the maximum rate payable. The veteran will not be able to apply for another Terminal Lump Sum Payment.

Please refer to the [Terminal Pension or Lump Sum Payment fact sheet](#) for further information.

What happens if the recipient of a War Disablement Pension dies?

When a veteran receiving a War Disablement Pension dies, the entitlement to the pension will stop 28 days later.

Veterans should ensure that their family or the executor of their estate knows how to get in touch with Veterans' Affairs in the unfortunate event of their death so that any entitlements or services can be stopped and the creation of debt avoided. The veteran's family may also be eligible for entitlements and support from Veterans' Affairs such as, payment of or contribution towards the veteran's funeral expenses or a memorial plaque or headstone.

What is the War Disablement Pension rate of payment?

Veterans using New Zealand bank accounts will receive the War Disablement Pension tax-free and on a fortnightly basis at the corresponding weekly rate for their level of impairment. If the pension is being paid to an overseas bank account it is paid on a four weekly basis.

The War Disablement Pension is subject to a general increase on 1 April each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The War Disablement Pension does not affect any other social assistance or income a veteran may receive, including ACC. For example, a veteran could be receiving a Disablement Pension for service-related conditions and ACC compensation for other conditions that are not caused by their service.

Further information on our [payment rates](#) is available on this website.

For further information

Call Veterans' Affairs on freephone 0800 483 8372 or (64) 4 495 2070 (if calling from overseas).

Related fact sheets

- [Disablement Pension](#)
- [Terminal Pension and Lump Sum Payment](#)
- [Treatment](#)
- [Case Management](#)

Legislative References

For further information please refer to the Veterans' Support Act 2014 Schedule One Part 1 and 2. The 2014 Act is available on the New Zealand Legislation website [www.legislation.govt.nz\(external link\)](http://www.legislation.govt.nz(external link)).