



Memorandum of Understanding

Working Group Update

Further Progress

The present preferred option from our Wellington meetings with the Crown for adding new conditions to Schedule One of the Memorandum of Understanding is:

- *Veterans' Affairs New Zealand would regularly monitor the United States Academy of Sciences "sufficient evidence of association" list for any additions.*
- *Should there be any addition to the "sufficient evidence of association" list, the Head of Veterans' Affairs will:*
 - *advise the Minister for Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans' Association and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association;*
 - *conduct due diligence as appropriate or required;*
 - *recommend the Minister advises Cabinet that (s)he intends to add the new condition(s) to Schedule 1 of the MoU; and*
 - *prepare the necessary documentation, as required by Treasury and Cabinet regulations.*
- *Any documentation provided to Cabinet would note that the Crown has no discretion or ability to decline or refuse to make an ex-gratia payment if a veteran meets the criteria of having served in Vietnam and having been diagnosed with a Prescribed Condition.*

The Crown has now asked us to consult with members on this preferred option.


You should note that the due diligence outlined as part of the requirements for Veterans Affairs is the need to prepare documentation, secure funding, and similar requirements to satisfy legal process in New Zealand.

The key point is that the Crown has no discretion to decline or refuse an ex-gratia payment to those properly qualified.

You are welcome to comment. Please direct any comment or discussion to Carol Taylor who is the Secretary of our Working Group at her email carol_taylor@xtra.co.nz

The group is next due to meet with the Crown in the second week of October and we anticipate that will be our final meeting. Therefore, any comments should be with Carol no later than midnight Tuesday, 11 October 2022.

Kia kaha

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Gibson', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Graham Gibson

Chair

MoU Working Group