

## Update 1 on MoU Implementation as at 21 March 2007

<i>Item</i>	<i>MoU Provision</i>	<i>MoU Sub Elements</i>	<i>Current Situation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2. Status, Apology and Acknowledgment</b>	2.2 Widely circulated	Awaiting National Register - see <i>Item 13</i>	Delivered in Parliament and in letter to veterans
		2.3 Content of Crown Apology	Discussions started with Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (DPMC)	EVSA & RSA to have input. See JWG recommendations.
		2.4 Cross-party support	Government will use best endeavours	
<b>2</b>	<b>3. Welcome Home Ceremony and Process</b>	3.1 & 3.5 NZDF Ceremony (including Whakanoa)	Awaiting confirmation of move to Queen's Birthday Weekend 2008	Likely to be held in Wellington in conjunction with EVSA Reunion
		3.2 Content of NZDF Statement	As detailed in MoU. Work not yet started	EVSA & RSA to have input.
		3.3 Viet Nam Exhibition	To be actioned	EVSA & RSA to have input
		3.4 Contribution to travel & accommodation expenses	Details to be determined once timing & location confirmed	
<b>3</b>	<b>4. Oral History Programme</b>	4.1 Recording by oral historians	Preliminary planning under way by Ministry of Culture & Heritage (MCH)	This is developing into a major project extending beyond an oral history itself
		4.2 Funding up to \$200,000 x 4 years	Under action	
		4.3 Commence during 2007 at date to be agreed	To be discussed	
<b>4</b>	<b>5. Increased Medallic Recognition</b>	5.1 Crown recommendation to the Queen re South Vietnamese Gallantry Awards	Under action	

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		5.2 NZ-specific Viet Nam Campaign Medal	Under action.	
		5.3 Extend 1 RNZIR Theatre Honour to include 1971	NZDF has convened a 2007 Battle/Theatre Honours Committee to examine this requirement	EVSA/RSA represented
<b>5</b>	<b>6. Ex Gratia Payments for Viet Nam Veterans</b>	6.1 \$40,000 – for veterans with Prescribed Condition/s	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13. Veteran can contact VANZ to initiate registration &amp; application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372.</i> Action has commenced for cabinet approval to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements	On receipt of Registration Form VANZ will proactively commence application process with veteran. Cabinet approval being sought for funding in current budget year
		6.2 Entitlement under 6.1 for conditions subsequently added to the Prescribed List	Expert Panel to be established– see <i>Item 7</i>	
		6.3 \$25,000 to surviving spouse or partner of veteran deceased from Prescribed List condition/s without receiving 6.1 or 6.2 entitlement	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13. Surviving spouse/partner can contact VANZ to initiate registration &amp; application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372.</i> Action has commenced for cabinet approval to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements	On receipt of Registration Form/s VANZ will proactively commence application process with veteran. Cabinet approval being sought for funding in current budget year
<b>6</b>	<b>7. War Disablement Pension</b>	7.1 Uniform application of the “reverse onus of proof”	To be actioned.	Linked to VANZ Review and WPA Rewrite
		7.2 Entitlement equal to 160% of WDP for service-related terminal illness	VANZ to take administrative action	Linked to WPA Rewrite

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		7.3 Substantive review of WPA	Preliminary scoping commenced for drafting Terms of Reference	Meeting to be held by JIG with Law Commission. JIG preference is for a 'first principles' rewrite while ensuring 'reverse onus of proof' retained. Veterans organisations will be an integral part of the process.
		7.4 Review of criteria for Surviving Spouse Pension	To be included in 7.3	
7	<b>8. Expert Panel</b>	8.1 Establish the Expert Panel		EVSA & RSA to propose nominees, and will be involved in developing the TOR.
		8.2 EP to create uniform standards to ensure fair & consistent treatment	To be included in EP TOR	
		8.3 Any changes to WDP rates to be backdated	VANZ to establish procedures and brief JIG on system	
8	<b>9. Programme for Children of Viet Nam Veterans</b>	9.1 Ex gratia payment up to \$30,000 for Five Accepted Conditions	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13</i> . <b>Affected individual can contact VANZ to initiate application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372.</b> Action has commenced for cabinet approval to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements	Cabinet approval being sought for funding in current budget year
		9.2 Review services of other governments & consider introducing programmes for children & grandchildren	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be actioned	

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		9.3 Consider improvements to access & dissemination of research on intergenerational effects	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be implemented. Input from MOH, MSD, ACC etc.	
<b>9</b>	<b>10. Lump Sum Payments for Families of Deceased Natural Children with One or More of the Five Accepted Conditions</b>	10.1 & 10.2 \$30,000 ex gratia payments	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13. Families can contact VANZ to initiate application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372.</i>	
<b>10</b>	<b>11. Ongoing Research</b>	Crown access international research and sponsor ongoing research	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be implemented. Input from MSD, MOH, ACC etc.	
<b>11</b>	<b>12. EVSA (Neville Wallace Memorial) Youth Development Trust</b>	\$250,000 grant	Paper being prepared for Cabinet approval to enable funding in current budget year	Expect funds could be available in April 2007
<b>12</b>	<b>13. Veterans' Card</b>	13.1 All veterans eligible to apply	For veterans over 65 and those under 65 in receipt of Veterans Pension the Veterans Card will be available later in the year. Card will <b>initially</b> have same functions as general superannuitants card. Other functions to be added as they come on stream.	Will be issued later for remaining veterans once card details finalised – see 13.2
		13.2 Purpose to ensure access to medical services and info available to medical professionals. Exact entitlements to be determined.	These and other functions will be added subsequently once veterans card details are finalised.	
		13.3 Viet Nam Veterans Children's card or agreed	Early scoping stage.	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13.</i>

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		alternative to enable ready identification for medical professionals		
13	<b>14. National Register</b>	14.1 To include all Viet Nam veterans, spouses/partners and children	<p>Forms have been designed and Minister's covering letter drafted with EVSA &amp; RSA input. Forms currently at the printer. Separate forms for each category – veterans, spouses/partners and children/grandchildren (including adopted children &amp; step-children).</p> <p><b>Phase1:</b> By 31 March 07, VANZ will <b>begin</b> mailing out to those they have addresses for – people <b>currently</b> on a WDP, Surviving Spouse Pension, and children who are on VANZ existing list of service recipients. Also all Viet Nam veterans who applied for the Year of the Veteran Badge. On receiving back the completed forms VANZ will prioritize those who may be eligible for an ex gratia payment. VANZ will then proactively initiate the application process for those people and VANZ intend doing as much of the documentation sourcing etc. they can without having to trouble the individuals concerned unless absolutely necessary. The forms will also be available at <a href="http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz">www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz</a> for printing off. <u>Because of privacy requirements people will have to personally sign a hard copy of their</u></p>	<p><b>Phase 2:</b> Phase 2 is designed to contact as many other members of the Viet Nam veteran community as possible. Once Phase 1 is under way, posters will be sent to all RSA's for their notice boards advising veterans of the registration process. It is intended that local EVSA Pension Reps and RSA Secretaries will have copies of the forms and/or will download them to give to people on request. <b><u>From mid-April 2007 (following initial mail-out), forms can also be requested from VANZ on 0800 483 8372.</u></b> Advertisements will be run in community newspapers telling people how to register. EVSA, RSA will also be using their communication channels to get the message out to as many as possible. <b><u>THE REGISTER WILL DRIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MUCH OF THE MoU.</u></b></p>

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			completed form and therefore it will NOT be possible for the forms to be completed on-line.	<b><u>PROVISIONS NOW &amp; IN THE FUTURE. ALL VETERANS CAN ASSIST THE PROCESS BY TELLING THEIR MATES, WIDOWS OF MATES, CHILDREN ETC. ABOUT REGISTRATION AND BY ENCOURAGING &amp; HELPING THEM TO REGISTER.</u></b>
		14.2 Register to be capable of including epidemiological research, monitoring etc.	VANZ to prepare paper on this for JIG.	
<b>14</b>	<b>15. Provision of Information</b>	15.1 VANZ to provide information to medical professionals to monitor & screen veterans & families for relevant conditions	VANZ, MSD & MOH to prepare paper. Also to be discussed with professional medical associations. Privacy issues examined in consultation with Privacy Commissioner	Investigate link to Veteran's Card and Children's Card
		15.2 Information to include that on PTSD	As for 15.1	
		15.3 Establish 'centres of excellence' with Veterans Retirement Homes' for veteran prevalent health conditions, including PTSD	Veterans Homes to be asked for proposals by 31 March 2008. VANZ & MOH suggestions/proposals.	Policy development during 2008
<b>15</b>	<b>16. VANZ Placement and Review</b>	Review VANZ mechanisms for service delivery (incl vets in Australia), functions, responsibilities, structure, resources & placement.	Early scoping of TOR for Review. JIG coordinating with CDF and CEO MSD to ensure service delivery maintained during the Review and adequate resourcing for additional requirements resulting from	Veterans organisations will be an integral part of the process.

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		Veterans Associations to be consulted & review integrated with rewrite of WPA	MoU implementation responsibilities	
<b>16</b>	<b>17. Medical Assessments</b>	One-off comprehensive medical assessment	Two vital requirements before medical examinations can begin are the provision of diagnostic information to practitioners, and clear instructions to practices on where to send the bill. We are working on these aspects with professional medical associations and also discussing best process/procedures.	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13</i> . Start assessments as soon as practicable.
<b>17</b>	<b>18. Trust Fund for Viet Nam Veterans and their Families</b>	18.1 Endowment of \$7 million for thirty years	Endowment to occur as soon as funding approved by Cabinet for current budget year.	Undertaking given that interest has been accruing on the endowment since MoU signed on 6 December 2006.
		18.2 Trust activities financed by interest earned. Trust Deed to be agreed & have charitable status	Drafting of Trust Deed has commenced. Initial trustees (for a one year term) to be recommended by JIG. One nominee each by EVSA & RSA, plus a Chairperson nominated by JIG “Core” and confirmed by Ministers.	To confirm that annual reporting to be to veteran community with copy to Ministers.
<b>18</b>	<b>19. Joint Implementation Group</b>	JIG ( comprising Crown & Veterans Associations) to oversee successful implementation within Terms of Reference to be agreed.	JIG “Core” = Chair, EVSA (two – Chris Mullane plus either John Dow, Rod Baldwin or Terry Culley) and RSA (two – John Campbell & Robin Klitscher). Participation by Government Agencies according to Agenda (as required may include – ACC, Crown Law, DIA,	Next JIG “Full” Meeting planned for 12 April 2007.

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			DPMC, MCH, MOH, MSD, NZDF, OMVA, Privacy Commissioner, TPK, TSY, VANZ.	