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The Good Buzz

As a senior veteran, if you have a Gold or a White Card, you may be eligible for many services designed to assist you in maintaining your wellbeing.

If you do not have a Gold or a White Card, you may be eligible for one

. The Good Buzz list some services and details some ways to access them.

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The Federal Government introduced a new aged care in 2014.

There are two main areas in the new aged care system.

- 1. Home care – specifically designed packages that assist people to stay comfortably and safely within their own home – Talk to agencies that provide in-home care to develop a tailored range of packages**
- 2. Residential Aged Care – entry into an aged care facility.**

ALWAYS SEEK EXPERT INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE BEFORE ENTERING AGED CARE IT IS A VERY COMPLEX AREA THAT REQUIRES DETAILED SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE



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Know your cards



Partner of a TPI becomes a War Widow and receives the War Widow pension with a Gold Card (the WW pension is not income or asset tested) when he passes.

The amount of income support supplement (ISS) they would receive is subject to the income and asset tests.

[TPI Partners Care](https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/veteran-healthcare-cards/veteran-gold-card)

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Helping you at home

The Veterans Home Care Programme provides:

- **domestic assistance**
- **personal care**
- **safety-related home and garden maintenance**
- **respite care (in-home, residential, and emergency)**

To be considered for the above services you will need to have an assessment, To arrange one, call a VHC Assessment Agency on 1300 550 450



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Helping you at home by providing nursing support

The Community Nursing Programme The programme provides:

- medication management
- Wound care
- hygiene

To receive these services, you will need to see a health professional for a referral to a community nursing agency. This could be your GP, a nurse, or a VHC Assessment Agency. You can also be referred by a treating hospital doctor or a hospital discharge planner.



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Other services that may be available to you :

- **aids, equipment and modifications to help you in the home.**
- **see through the Rehabilitation Appliance Program**
(<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/care-homeor-aged-care/equipment-and-modifications-you-and-yourhome>) series.

[Rehabilitation Appliance Program Updated](#)



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Other services that may be available to you :

- **medical and allied health services to support you**
- **See through (<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/injury-or-health-treatments/healthservices>)**

[Health services](https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/injury-or-health-treatments/healthservices)



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Other services that may be available to you :

- **transport to allow you to travel to medical appointments and medical treatment**
- **See through (<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/local-or-overseas-medical-care/travel-treatment>)**



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Other services that may be available to you :

- **Mental health support**
- **See through (<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-andtreatment/injury-or-health-treatments/mental-healthcare/mental-health-support-services>) services and counselling through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (formerly VVCS) (<https://www.openarms.gov.au/>)**

[Mental health support from DVA](#)

[Mental health support from Open Arms](#)



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Other services that may be available to you :

- **a range of information sources to help veterans and their families learn more about the services available. Resources include books (available online or in hard copy), a video, and a webinar series.**
- **See the DVA website (<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-andtreatment/care-home-or-aged-care/aged-careresources>)**

New look.
Same benefits
and entitlements.

[Other services and resources](#)



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AGED CARE

One thing you need to know!

**ALWAYS SEEK EXPERT FINANCIAL ADVICE BEFORE ENTERING AGED
CARE**

**IT IS A VERY COMPLEX AREA THAT REQUIRES DETAILED SPECIFIC
KNOWLEDGE**



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The final message

**Always try and get independent financial
advise from a financial advisor that
specialises in aged care prior to going
into residential aged care.**

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Part 2

Bereavement

Funeral Benefits

Update Records

Understand Partner Benefits

DVA File Number

Copy of Service Records

Commit ashes at sea.



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Bereavement payments (VEA)

Bereavement payments help surviving partners meet immediate financial demands and in some circumstances also assist the estates of single veterans.

Generally, no application is required as payment (often by lump sum), will be assessed automatically. Bereavement payments are non-taxable.

Payments are made if the deceased was in receipt of an income support payment or Disability Compensation Payment from DVA or an income support payment from Centrelink at the time of death, and there is a surviving partner.

If the deceased person was receiving both payments the surviving partner is entitled to two bereavement payments. If the deceased veteran was receiving an income support payment from DVA but surviving partner is receiving an income support from Centrelink, the bereavement payment is payable by Centrelink.

For a bereavement payment to be made, the couple must have been living together at the time of death, or be a couple living separately because of medical reasons or residential respite care. No bereavement payment is made in respect of war widow(er)'s pension.

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Bereavement payment for single pensioners

For single rate Service Pension, Age Pension or Income Support Supplement recipients, an entitlement of 14 days (two weeks) pension from the day after the death may be paid to the pensioner's estate.

Disability Compensation Payment

This is a lump sum payable to the partner of a deceased Disability Compensation Payment recipient. It is equal to 12 weeks at the rate received by the veteran at the time of death.

The estate of a deceased single veteran in receipt of a Special Rate or Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) payment who dies in severe financial need can apply for a bereavement payment.

Where a claim for Disability Compensation Payment is undetermined at the time of the veteran's death and a payment or an increase in the rate of payment is granted, the bereavement payment will be made at the new rate.

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Funeral benefits

Automatic entitlement to veteran's funeral benefit

A funeral benefit may be granted in respect of funeral expenses of an Australian veteran who, at the time of death, was receiving any of the following payments:

- receiving Special (TPI) Rate Disability Compensation Payment
- receiving Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) Disability Compensation Payment
- receiving Disability Compensation Payment plus an allowance under sub-section 27(1) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 as a multiple amputee
- an ex-prisoner of war.

Where the veteran was in one of these categories, DVA will arrange payment of a funeral benefit direct to the estate of the deceased veteran.

However, it may be necessary for a claim to be lodged, for example if the late veteran was an ex-prisoner of war and the veteran's service had not been recorded with DVA.

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Others who are eligible for veteran's funeral benefit

A funeral benefit may be granted to a person responsible for the funeral expenses in respect of any of the following:

- a veteran who died from an accepted service-related disability
- a veteran or former member of the forces who died in needy circumstances
- a veteran or former member of the forces whose treatment was provided under DVA health care arrangements through the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) and who died:
 - in an institution (for example: hospital, a nursing home or hostel, outpatient's clinic, a medical centre, or a rehabilitation or training establishment.)
 - travelling to or from an institution
 - after discharge from an institution in which the veteran was being treated for a terminal illness
 - while being treated for a terminal illness at home.

In these cases, an application must be made by the person responsible for the funeral expenses on the funeral benefit form within 12 months of the death, or within 12 months from the date death was determined to be war-caused, with the receipt or account for the funeral attached.

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Dependant's funeral benefit

A funeral benefit may also be payable in respect of the funeral of a dependant (war widow(er), wholly dependent partner, child under 16 or full-time student under 25 of a deceased member where the dependant died in severe financial need. The dependant's eligibility requires that either of the following conditions are met:

- the veteran's death was accepted as service related
- at the time of the veteran's death, the veteran was receiving - Disability Compensation Payment at the Special (TPI) Rate - an increased disability rate for blindness or an allowance under section 27 of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 for double amputees - the member's impairment was determined by the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission to constitute 80 or more impairment points under the MRCA.

Application must be made by the person responsible for the funeral expense on the funeral benefit form within 12 months of the death, or within 12 months from the date death was determined to be war-caused, with the receipt or account for the funeral attached.

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Bereavement payment for members of a couple

The surviving member of a couple whose partner was receiving a Service Pension, Age Pension or Income Support Supplement may be eligible for a bereavement payment equal to 98 days entitlement (14 weeks) from day after death.

The payment is based on the type of pension, support and allowances formerly paid to the deceased person. Special rules apply when the deceased was the member of an illness-separated couple.

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PLANNING AHEAD – A CHECKLIST FOR NOTIFICATION

Complete the details in the second column of this checklist and keep it in a safe place, ensuring that your partner, family or friends know of its whereabouts. It will make the task of notifying important people, businesses and organisations of your death much easier for your partner, relatives or friends.

My important documents are kept together in the following location:

Organisation or Business	Contact Person, Telephone Number & Relevant ID or Member Number	Notified of Death (Tick box)

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Personal Information Sheet

Form ID D8729

Audience General

This Form is used by pensioners to record their personal details to ensure that there is a record after they pass away. The form is strictly for reference only and is not to be sent back to DVA.

If you are using an Apple computer and want to fill out your form electronically, please download the form and open it with Acrobat 7 or later.

How can I access this form? Download only
Form (PDF or Word) Download as PDF (65.62 KB)

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Medical Details of Veteran
Form ID D8730
Audience General

This Form is used by veterans to record their medical details to ensure that there is a record which may aid in a War Widows pension claim after they pass away.
If you are using an Apple computer and want to fill out your form electronically, please download the form and open it with Acrobat 7 or later.

How can I access this form? Download only
Form (PDF or Word) [Download](#) as PDF (99.13 KB)

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Many former sailors often request that, following their death, their ashes be committed to the sea. It is not unusual for some to request that their ashes be committed at the site where their old ship has been sunk, or from a current ship bearing their former ship's name.

The families of deceased ADF personnel, and Royal Navy personnel, may request to commit the ashes of their family members to the sea, on service land, or to the air. Details regarding making these requests may be obtained by contacting Defence Member and Family Support (formerly Defence Community Organisation - DCO).

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