

# Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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Item 11 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of the status and operation of the Treaty and other matters important for achieving the objectives and purpose of the Treaty: victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance (articles 6 and 7)**

## Voluntary report on articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty

### Report submitted by New Zealand

State party:   New Zealand  

Reporting time period:   August 2023  

Focal point(s) for articles 6 and 7 (include name and contact information):

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\* TPNW/MSP/2023/1.



**COVER PAGE**

*To simplify the reporting process, this page can be used to indicate whether the information for specific forms during the reporting time period has changed, remains unchanged or is not applicable. Forms with information that is unchanged or not applicable need not be filled out.*

**State party:** \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reporting time period:** **August 2023** \_\_\_\_\_

**Form A: Victim assistance**

<i>Changed</i>	<b>X</b>
<i>Unchanged</i>	
<i>Not applicable</i>	

**Form B: Environmental remediation**

<i>Changed</i>	
<i>Unchanged</i>	
<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>X</b>

**Form C: International cooperation and assistance (including assistance provided, received and requested)**

<i>Changed</i>	
<i>Unchanged</i>	<b>X</b>
<i>Not applicable</i>	

FORM A: VICTIM ASSISTANCE

State party: New Zealand

Reporting time period: August 2023

(1) Effects of nuclear weapons use or testing

<i>Data on individuals affected by use or testing of nuclear weapons (e.g. estimated number and location and demographic information)</i>	<i>Types of harm experienced</i>	<i>Needs reported</i>	<i>Methodology of assessment</i>	<i>Extent of assessment and further assessment needed</i>	<i>Criteria used to determine who is an affected individual</i>
<p>An estimated 12,000 New Zealanders (including several hundred women) participated in Jayforce, as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan after the Second World War, from 1946 to 1949. Stationed in Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Eta Jima island and in Iwakuni, Bofu and Shimane, they comprised an infantry brigade and a Royal New Zealand Air Force squadron. Parts of Eta Jima are within 10 miles of the</p>	<p>Various forms of cancer, mental health disorders and other conditions not specific to exposure to ionizing radiation but that may be caused by or attributed to qualifying military service generally</p>	<p>Treatment and rehabilitation; impairment compensation; income support; help to keep independent in the home; support for children (education and pension) and dependants</p> <p>Concerns about potential transgenerational effects</p>	<p>Veterans' Affairs New Zealand has referred to scientific literature, both national and international, to assess the types of effects to which these veterans may have been exposed.</p>	<p>For research into the effects of nuclear testing, New Zealand continues to carry out reviews of scientific literature, most recently in 2023.</p> <p>For assessing support and services for individual veterans, Veterans' Affairs New Zealand obtains medical reports from general practitioners and/or relevant specialists</p>	<p>Veterans' Affairs New Zealand checks the service details of applicants to determine whether they have the relevant service. If the veteran suffers from any of the conclusively presumed conditions relating to exposure to ionizing radiation listed in regulation 12 of the Veterans' Support Regulations 2014 (but available for use since 2007), that illness will be automatically deemed as service-related, thus enabling the provision of support and services. Veterans may also test their eligibility for support and services under the general provisions of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 (previously the War Pensions Act 1954) and the Veterans' Support Regulations 2014. That legislation can be found at <a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz">www.legislation.govt.nz</a></p>

<p>Hiroshima city limits. The definition of veterans exposed to harmful doses of ionizing radiation used by the Government of the United States includes personnel who had military duties within 10 miles of the city limits.</p>				<p>and assessments from rehabilitation experts such as occupational therapists, as necessary.</p>	
<p>The Royal New Zealand Air Force took part in monitoring radioactivity from Britain's first nuclear test off the north-west coast of Australia on 3 October 1952.</p>	<p>Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel based in Fiji and New Zealand collected rainwater samples. Crews also took part from New Zealand. More time is needed to seek details of the crews involved and whether they reported any harmful effects.</p>				
<p>1956 and 1957 British nuclear tests at Maralinga, South Australia: New Zealand Defence Force personnel attended as observers (6 personnel in 1956 and 2 in 1957).</p>	<p>Checks done in 2001 by the New Zealand Defence Force indicated that none of the veterans concerned suffered from conditions associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.</p>	<p>Four veterans are recorded as having received impairment compensation (war disablement pension).</p>			<p>As for Jayforce</p>

	<p>Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand holds later details of three of these veterans, and none suffered from illnesses associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.</p>				
<p>1 September 1957 and 18 July 1958 observation of United States nuclear tests in Nevada (1 observer) and Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands (1 observer)</p>	<p>The veteran who observed the test at Eniwetok received impairment compensation (war disablement pension). There is no authoritative evidence that any of the conditions that the veterans concerned had were linked to their observation of these tests. For the veteran who witnessed the Nevada test, Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand holds no requests for assistance (he died in 1983, prior to the establishment of Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand.</p>				

<p>A total of 528 serving New Zealanders witnessed the British testing of thermonuclear weapons in 1957 and 1958 off Christmas Island and Malden Island in the Line Islands, now part of the Republic of Kiribati (Operation Grapple).</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>
<p>A total of 492 New Zealanders participated in July 1973 in a government protest against French testing of atmospheric nuclear weapons at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia. Two frigates were deployed to stand off Mururoa (HMNZS <i>Otago</i> for the first test, on 21 July, replaced by HMNZS <i>Canterbury</i> for the second test, on 28 July).</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>	<p>As for Jayforce</p>

**(2) National victim assistance framework**

**(a) National plans for victim assistance**

*Development and implementation of national plans, including budgets and time frames (can include attachments)*

There are no specific national plans for nuclear test veterans. Changes to current policy for assistance would be covered by Cabinet decision and, if necessary, amendment to veteran legislation. The budget for assistance is incorporated in the overall vote for assisting veterans.

**(b) National laws and policies related to victim assistance**

*Adoption or adaptation and implementation of national laws and policies (can include attachments)*

Support for nuclear test veterans is covered by the Veterans’ Support Act 2014 and the Veterans’ Support Regulations 2014. Specific services and support for children of veterans of Operation Grapple were decided on by Cabinet decisions of 2001/02; any extension of this support to children of other cohorts would be decided by Cabinet decision. Support for nuclear test veterans is not specifically earmarked in the budget for Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand, but is covered under the overall budgetary appropriation for Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand. Support for these veterans is not limited to only those conditions related to potential exposure to nuclear radiation. Rather, support is available for any and all conditions relating to their qualifying service.

**(3) Status and progress of victim assistance measures**

<i>Type of assistance provided or planned (including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as measures to promote social and economic inclusion)</i>	<i>Number of affected individuals assisted</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date and duration</i>	<i>Assistance provider</i>	<i>Efforts to ensure non-discrimination, age and gender sensitivity, and accessibility</i>
Funding of treatment (private treatment rather than treatment through the public health system may be provided in certain	The current available data are an annual count of nuclear veterans who are being supported and may also reflect	Wherever the veteran resides	Ongoing	Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand	Assistance is provided to all veterans with the relevant qualifying service.

circumstances); travel for assessment, treatment and rehabilitation costs	conditions that are not necessarily attributable to nuclear testing exposure.				
Rehabilitation – may include aids and appliances (including hearing aids); modifications to the home; attendant care; childcare; transport (e.g. vehicle modification); home help; training for independence (mobility, safety in the home, domestic activities, hygiene care, etc.); vocational training for spouse or partner		As above	Introduced on 7 December 2014 and ongoing	As above	As above
Family counselling for household members caring for veteran		As above	Introduced in October 2020	As above	As above
Veterans’ Independence Programme (a range of services for assisting veterans to remain independent in their home)		As above	Introduced on 7 December 2015 and is ongoing	As above	As above
Support for children, including children’s pension, children’s bursary and dependant’s pension		As above	Ongoing	As above	This assistance is provided in respect of all veterans with the relevant qualifying service before 1 April 1974.



Income compensation		As above	Ongoing	Veterans' Affairs New Zealand or Ministry of Social Development	Most Jayforce and nuclear test veterans are over the age limit for receiving this and may receive instead the veterans' pension (equivalent of New Zealand superannuation) administered by the Ministry of Social Development.
Specific support and services for children of Operation Grapple veterans includes family psychological counselling; genetic counselling and genetic testing; and out-of-pocket health expenses for accepted conditions (cleft lip, cleft palate, adrenal gland cancer, acute myeloid leukaemia and spina bifida manifesta).	To date only a handful of children have come forward to gain access to this support.	As above	Introduced in 2001/02 by Cabinet decision, except genetic testing, which was introduced by policy decision in 2021	Veterans' Affairs New Zealand	Assistance is provided to natural-born children of the veteran, born after the return of the father from Operation Grapple services. Family psychological counselling extends to other family children if raised as the veteran's children.

**(4) Efforts to involve affected communities, including Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders at all stages of the victim assistance process (including but not limited to provision of information necessary for informed decision-making)**

<i>Measure taken</i>	<i>Agency responsible</i>	<i>Stakeholder involved</i>	<i>Date or time frame</i>	<i>Other details</i>
See statement below this table	Veterans' Affairs New Zealand	Indigenous Peoples, age, gender sensitivity		

Consultation with regard to legislative change or major change to policy outside of the legislation is conducted via Facebook, Veterans' Affairs New Zealand website, veteran forums and contacts with veterans' organizations (which are diverse in terms of gender and ethnic grouping).

Please note that Veterans' Affairs New Zealand has been in existence since 1999. Before that, other agencies were responsible for administering veteran legislation and providing assistance. Veterans' Affairs New Zealand does not have ready access to the historical records archived by the past agencies.

Veterans' Affairs New Zealand has not developed data sets that indicate how many veterans from each cohort (deployment) have which specific illnesses.

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