



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2025-5256.1

3rd March 2025

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your further email of 12 February 2025, seeking a breakdown by financial year of the data provided previously (OIA-2025-5256), regarding access to funding for hearing aids. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As noted previously, information on the support from Veterans' Affairs New Zealand (VA) for hearing aids and appliances is available from the VA website.¹ The cost of the provision of hearing aids specifically cannot be separated from other hearing-related support or treatment, so the following figures represent all costs for hearing aids and other appliances, maintenance, and treatment associated with hearing issues.

Please note, the totals presented below will not match those provided previously. This is in part because veterans who have accessed funding across multiple years were only counted once in the previous response, but are now counted for each financial year that they have accessed this funding. Also, VA identified an error, where some of the previous numbers reflected the last six years, not the last five years. This has now been corrected.

The number of veteran clients of any age and any reported ethnicity who have accessed funding from VA for issues relating to their hearing, through financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24, and the associated cost, is provided in table 1.

Table 1 – total number of veterans who have accessed funding for issues relating to hearing and the associated cost

FY	Number of veterans	Cost
2019/20	1671	\$3,139,914.61
2020/21	1660	\$3,589,580.17
2021/22	1549	\$3,326,812.72
2022/23	1486	\$3,033,187.10
2023/24	1747	\$5,203,520.66

¹ <https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/a-z/hearing-aids-and-appliances/>

The number of veteran clients over the age of 50, of any reported ethnicity, who have accessed funding from VA for issues relating to their hearing, through financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24, and the associated cost, is provided in table 2.

Table 2 - number of veterans aged 50+ who have accessed funding for issues relating to hearing and the associated cost

FY	Number of veterans	Cost
2019/20	1664	\$3,115,525.35
2020/21	1646	\$3,540,414.05
2021/22	1539	\$3,300,842.45
2022/23	1477	\$3,006,729.56
2023/24	1728	\$5,136,426.46

As previously noted, VA clients voluntarily provide ethnicity, and they may include more than one option.

The number of veteran clients, over the age of 50, who included Māori in their reported ethnicity and who accessed funding from VA for issues related to their hearing, through financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24, and the associated cost, is provided in table 3.

Table 3 - number of Māori veterans aged 50+ who have accessed funding for issues relating to hearing and the associated cost

FY	Number of veterans	Cost
2019/20	139	\$324,481.13
2020/21	136	\$363,143.63
2021/22	159	\$430,143.33
2022/23	146	\$306,931.24
2023/24	199	\$685,254.33

The number of veteran clients, over the age of 50, who included Pasifika in their reported ethnicity and who accessed funding from VA for issues related to their hearing, through financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24, and the associated cost, is provided in table 4.

Table 4 - number of Pasifika veterans aged 50+ who have accessed funding for issues relating to hearing and the associated cost

FY	Number of veterans	Cost
2019/20	2	\$3,591.00
2020/21	3	\$8,119.00
2021/22	4	\$4,012.01
2022/23	2	\$5,412.50
2023/24	8	\$24,050.40

As noted previously, the support provided by VA is targeted to those who have suffered consequences by being placed in harm's way, and largely aims to compensate or treat illness or injury resulting from their qualifying service. Accordingly, this support reflects a specific degree of impairment suffered by the individual veteran, and VA does not record the status of a veteran as 'disabled' or otherwise. Therefore, your request for information about 'disabled people' is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the requested information does not exist.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF