

# Media Release – Professor Ron Paterson

25 July 2017

## CONSULTATION ON VETERANS' SUPPORT ACT UNDERWAY

A discussion document about how the Veterans' Support Act 2014 is working has been released today.

It is part of the consultation process for a Review of how the legislation is operating. The Review is a legal requirement under the Veterans' Support Act 2014 and is being independently led by Professor Ron Paterson. The Review is expected to be completed, and a report provided to the Chief of Defence Force, by the end of 2017.

The discussion document seeks views about how the Veterans' Support Act 2014 is working, what could be improved, and what needs to be changed.

"I have released this discussion document early in the Review process, to give people as much time as possible to think about how the Veterans' Support Act is working for them", says Professor Paterson.

Submissions on the discussion document are due by 15 September 2017. Consultation meetings will be held in Whāngārei, Auckland, Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill in August and September. Information about the independent review, consultation process and discussion document can be found on the New Zealand Defence Force website [www.nzdf.mil.nz/corporate-documents/vsa](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/corporate-documents/vsa)

"I'm looking forward to meeting as many veterans and their families as possible at the consultation meetings. They have served our country and the Veterans' Support Act is there to provide the support and rehabilitation they need as a result of their service", says Professor Paterson.

"We don't often get the opportunity, so soon after new legislation comes into effect, to independently review how it is working".

"I encourage everyone who has an interest to take this opportunity to have their say".

**ENDS**

For more information, contact: [review.vsa@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:review.vsa@nzdf.mil.nz)

### Editor's notes

Professor Paterson is a Professor of Law at Auckland University, and a former Health and Disability Commissioner and Ombudsman. He has law degrees from Auckland and Oxford Universities, and has held Fulbright and Harkness Fellowships. Professor Paterson was awarded an ONZM for services to health in 2011.