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New Zealand Defence Force
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2025-5373

Jh
May 2025

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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your further request, received by Acting Head of Veterans' Affairs Alex Brunt on 8 April 2025, seeking a copy of *the Mackenzie Report* and any comments made about it. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

It appears that the report you have referenced is the Family History Protocol Study (2000), which is publically available on the Veterans' Affairs (VA) website¹. The New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans Association (NZNTVA) used a \$30,000 grant from the War Pensions Medical Research Trust Fund Board to commission the study that was conducted by the University of Dundee Medical School.

File searches undertaken by VA have not identified any comments about the Family History Protocol Study. It is noted, however, that Dr Sue Rabbitt Roff wrote to the Prime Minister regarding the report of the Inquiry into the Health Status of Children of Vietnam and Operation Grapple Veterans, in a letter dated 17 June 1999. This was provided at enclosure 11 in the previous response to you.

You also noted the following:

I did request to be supplied with advice given to Ms Whaitiri and Mr Penk that appears to have been overlooked.

Your initial request focussed on advice given to Ministers regarding the Rowling study, and with particular regard to Dr Sheena Hunt's report. All information identified as being relevant to this request was provided to you. Some further information that was not directly in scope of the request but which VA considered likely to be of interest to you and the membership of the NZNTVA, was also provided.

The 4 May 2021 dot point brief *Background briefing notes for stakeholder meeting: New Zealand Nuclear Veterans' Association (Operation Grapple veterans)* was prepared for Minister Whaitiri, who was Minister for Veterans from 6 November 2020 until 3 May 2023.

¹ <https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-documents-and-publications/research/research-about-new-zealands-nuclear-veterans/>.

Specific advice regarding the Rowling study or Dr Hunt's report has not been provided to Minister Penk (who has been the Minister for Veterans since 27 November 2023). An item regarding New Zealand's nuclear veterans in general terms was, however, included in the 24 November 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Minister for Veterans, which is available on the VA website².

There is also a literature review on the health impacts of exposure to ionising radiation commissioned by the Veterans' Health Advisory Panel (VHAP). The Panel's report and the review were provided to Minister Penk. More information about this, including a copy of the VHAP's report to the Minister and the full literature review, are publicly available on the VA website.

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

² <https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-documents-and-publications/corporate-documents/>.