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OIA-2025-5626

18th February 2026

Spencer Jones

fyi-request-33398-ecea0ccb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Spencer Jones

I refer to your request of 31 December 2025, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information held by, or provided to, the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB):

Visibility of veteran-focused charities

Please advise whether the VAB:

holds, maintains, or has been provided with any list, directory, register, or briefing material identifying charities or community organisations that support military veterans and/or their families; and

if so, please provide the most current version of that material.

The VAB is an independent statutory board that provides advice, on request, directly to the Minister for Veterans. The VAB and its functions are established under section 247 of the Veterans' Support Act 2014.

The VAB does not hold, and has not been provided, any list, directory or register identifying 'charities or community organisations that support military veterans and/or their families'. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist.

Advice to Ministers or Veterans' Affairs NZ

Please provide copies of any advice, recommendations, briefings, or reports provided by the VAB since 1 January 2019 that relate to:

charitable or community support for veterans;

gaps in veteran support outside statutory entitlements;

signposting, referral, navigation, or "front door" access to support services.

No information relevant to this request was located. As such, this part of your request is also declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA. All reports to the Minister are published on the Veterans' Affairs website.

Consideration of signposting or navigation frameworks

Please provide any papers, minutes, or discussion records where the VAB has considered:

whether veterans can readily identify and access charitable or community support;

whether a central directory or signposting mechanism is needed; or

comparisons with overseas models (e.g. Defence/Armed Forces Covenant approaches).

Advice to the Minister regarding the potential for a Kawenata / Covenant included comparisons with overseas examples. Please refer to the following articles, which include copies of relevant VAB reports: Looking at overseas Defence Covenants (<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/news-events/articles/vab-covenants/>); Public feedback on a Kawenata / Covenant (<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-partners-and-the-veteran-sector/boards-and-panels/veterans-advisory-board/mission-feedback/>); and, better recognition of service people and their whanau (<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/news-events/articles/vab-report-2021/>).

Absence of information

If the VAB does not hold information of the type described in items 1–3 above, please confirm:

that the VAB does not currently have visibility of a comprehensive veteran charity landscape; and

whether the Board has previously identified this as an issue or gap.

Please refer to the above response.

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.

Responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF