

Bruce A G Weir
54/1917 Gold Coast Highway
Burleigh Heads Qld 4220
Australia
6th July 2007

Director
Veterans Affairs
P.O.Box 5146
Wellington NZ

Dear Madam,

Application for War Disablement Pension Backdating
Reference: 293-971-896

At the RNZIR reunion in Palmerston North on the 26th March 2005 you made reference to approve the backdating of war disablement pensions to those who are able to demonstrate their disability had been identified by medical professionals significantly prior for a disability for that condition.

As you are aware I first applied to have my heart condition recognised as a condition due to my war service in 1994. It was not until last year after several attempts to get this recognised that the Department finally accepted that my heart condition with a bypass and an artificial valve inserted was attributed to my war service. The back pay only went back to December 2005. The fact that the NZ Government refused to recognise in all the previous attempts to get recognition for my diseased heart valve as a war service related. I first went to my Cardiologist 8th March 1994 enclosed history with this letter from that date to present. On a letter from War Pension Services dated 11th June 2004 stating that I was now on 100%. This letter also states it was from 20th August 2003. I am claiming back pay for 50% WDP for my heart condition of 50% from the 8/3/94 to 18th July 2001 when my PTSD was recognised at 50%, and 35% from 18/7/01 for my heart condition until 20th August 2004 when I received the extra 35% ie 25% for Solar Keratosis and Non Melanoma Skin Cancer, 5% for Seborrhoeic Dermatitis and 5% for Psoriasis, This making me up to 100%. My heart condition was not recognised as war related until last year and as previously stated only back paid from December 2005. The enclosed documentation supports my claim.

Hearing loss

As the enclosed documentation states I first put in for my hearing loss in 1978. This was the first time I was made aware that I could even apply for a war disability pension. When you are in the Army you were not made aware of your entitlements and nobody wanted to accept the fact that there was anything wrong with their health and if there was no one would admit it and brush it off. I was only paid for 5% hearing loss when in fact it was more documentation states 10%PP from 1978. It was not until 1994/1995 that it was increased to 15% and I was informed that was it. I am claiming back pay from 1978 to the present date.

As well as reference to para 1 on the opening statement by you I also quote your words in analysis "Irrespective of any other influences, the fact remains that if a disability has been accepted as attributable to service, there is no provision in the War Pensions Act 1954 that allows for the apportionment of that disability into Service related components. On that basis I must advise in --- the apportionment of your hearing disability into service and non service related components was made in error. Rather, the rate of War Disablement Pension for your hearing loss should have been aligned to the pensionable level of your disability" unquote. I expect that you will rectify this anomaly with my hearing disability pension as well as my heart condition.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply,
Yours Faithfully Bruce A G Weir