**Kawenata: Key facts that can be used for public consultation**

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| Statement | Source |
| Since the commencement of the Second World War, around **500,00 people** have served in our defence force. | VAB interim report on what constitutes a veteran (June 2019). Estimate based on modelling. |
| Around **120,000** are still alive today. | VAB interim report on what constitutes a veteran (June 2019). Estimate based on modelling. |
| We have had over **100 overseas deployments** since 1974. | VANZ website. Review of Qualifying Operational Service is covering over 100 deployments since 1 April 1974 (which is generally considered the starting point for contemporary veterans, and aligns with the VSA 2014). |
| But **under 1.5%** of eligible service people under 65 years of age access Government-funded veterans support. | VANZ. Using VANZ’s actual figures of 450 (1.45%) to 500 (1.6%) people under 65 accessing veterans support services. Out of a conservative estimate of 31,000 eligible.  Note there are around 8000 veterans on VANZ’s books at the moment (excluding spouses and partners). |
| Post-traumatic Stress is **highly prevalent** among our service people. | *Risk and Protective Factors for post-traumatic stress among New Zealand military personnel: A cross sectional study*. A.Richardson et al. PLOS One, 15 April 2020. This recent study suggests that the rate of PTS amongst NZ military personnel is over 3 times that in the general population. |
| Acceptance and finding a new mission is a major issue for those leaving the service. Research suggests:   * **75% of people leave the forces with no secure employment**. * The transition experience is poor and has not improved over the past 15 years. | Post-transition Ltd/Massey University research. Based on a survey of around 1400 ex-service people and available in two 2019 reports *Finding Meaning* and *A Failure to Care* at <https://www.posttransition.co.nz/reports>  Key findings were:   * 25% have secure employment when they leave the forces. * The transition experience was rated 4.02/10 overall. * There was very low support from the NZDF before exit. This was rated 3.5/10 overall. |
| There are around 450 former service people in our prisons. | **Have asked for confirmation/source of data from VANZ.** Note that international evidence suggests former serving members are not necessarily over-represented in prison, but they are the largest occupational group in prison (Aus and UK). They are primarily incarcerated for violent and sexual crimes. |

The Government expects the New Zealand Defence Force to support New Zealand’s security, resilience and wellbeing across a broad range of activities. Defence people must deliver across a range of tasks including:

* Responding at short notice to domestic emergencies and disasters and those outside New Zealand. For example, assisting Police following the Christchurch mosque attacks in 2019, support to the emergency response and recovery operation following the eruption on Whakaari/White Island, and support to the Indonesian earthquake in 2018.
* Activities in New Zealand including explosive ordnance disposal, search and rescue, and supporting the Department of Conservation.
* Air Force and Naval maritime surveillance patrols and exercises within New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone and the Asia-Pacific.
* Support to scientific programmes in Antarctica.
* Operations contributing to global peace and security and humanitarian support, including training deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and peacekeeping missions in the Middle East and Africa.

In 2018/19 the Defence Force had 14 operations and locations of other deployed personnel around the world.