



**Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)
Eligibility**

Peacekeeping Service – Australian Police Contingents

Overview

This Factsheet provides a brief description of disability compensation available to members of Australian police contingents in certain peacekeeping operations under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA). Members of a Peacekeeping Force or an Australian contingent of a Peacekeeping Force designated by the Minister are eligible to claim disability compensation pensions under the VEA.

What are Ministerial Instruments relating to Police service on peacekeeping operations?

Three Ministerial Instruments relate to service with an Australian Police Contingent in East Timor commencing on 11 June 1999.

- The first instrument covers the period 21 June 1999 to 25 October 1999 for AFP members who actually served in East Timor in the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET).
- The second instrument covers the period 25 October 1999 to 19 May 2002 for AFP members who actually served in East Timor in the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). East Timor became an independent country on 20 May 2002.
- The third instrument covers the period 20 May 2002 to 20 May 2005. It is for AFP members who actually served in East Timor in the United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor (UNMISSET).

Another Ministerial Instrument relates to Police service in the Solomon Islands commencing on 24 July 2003 and is currently ongoing. It is for Police officers who actually served in the Solomon Islands in the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

A fifth Ministerial Instrument relates to Police service in Sudan commencing on 1 January 2006 and is currently ongoing. It is for Police officers who actually served in Sudan in the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

All instruments classify members of Australian Police Contingents as Peacekeepers who are eligible under Part IV of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

The Consolidated Library of Information and Knowledge (CLIK) contains the Department's legislation, policy and reference material. It is available on the DVA Website. For more information about the Ministerial Instruments described above, please refer to <http://www.dva.gov.au/aboutDVA/publications/corporate/clik/Pages/index.aspx> then, via the following pathway: "*Legislation/Service Eligibility Assistant/By Region*".

If you have difficulty accessing CLIK, you can get more help from any DVA office.

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What are Schedule 3 Operations?

The Peacekeeping Forces currently covered by the VEA up to 1994 are listed in Schedule 3 of the Act. The peacekeeping operations in this schedule under which members of Australian Police Contingents may have eligibility are outlined below.

Peacekeeping Force	Start Date
United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	14 May 1964
United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)	18 May 1992
United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ)	27 March 1994
Multi-National Force in Haiti	10 October 1994

What am I eligible for?

If you were a Police officer who served in a declared Peacekeeping Force, you are able to claim disability compensation pension and treatment for any injury or disease accepted as being caused by your peacekeeping service. You may also be eligible for the Veterans' Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme. Peacekeeping service does not give eligibility for qualifying service.

Treatment under the VEA is provided through a White or a Gold Card. A White Card allows you to receive treatment for all of your accepted disabilities. If you are in receipt of a disability pension at 100% or more of the general rate, you would also be eligible for a Gold Card which provides treatment for all medical conditions, whether or not they are service related.

You may also be able to claim compensation from Comcare for the same injury. However, you cannot be compensated twice for the same loss, so that benefits paid by Comcare will affect any pension that might be paid under the VEA.

Records

DVA will seek independent confirmation of your service, however copies of material that supports your application should be submitted with your claim form.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this factsheet is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances. You should not make important decisions, such as those that affect your financial or lifestyle position, e.g. retirement, on the basis of information contained in this factsheet. Where you are required to lodge a written claim for a benefit, you must take full responsibility for your decisions prior to the written claim being determined. You should seek confirmation in writing of any oral advice you receive from DVA relating to complex or important matters.

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Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- *DP 18 Making a Claim/Applying for an Increase in Disability Pension*
- *DP 10 Peacekeeping Service*

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au

You can phone DVA on 133 254 or free call 1800 555 254 if you are outside a major city.

Note: * Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au