

# Appendix A Gold Card eligibility

## Criteria

Under the current legislation, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA), the following are entitled to a Gold Card.

Veterans of Australia's Defence Force who:

- served in Australia's Defence Force after World War II, who are aged 70 or over and have qualifying service under section 7A of the VEA;
- are World War II veterans who served in Australia's Defence Forces and mariners who served in Australia's merchant navy, between 3 September 1939 and 29 October 1945, who are aged 70 years or over, and have **qualifying service** from that conflict;
- are returned ex-servicewomen of World War II, that is, who served in Australia's Defence Force between 3 September 1939 and 29 October 1945 and who have **qualifying service** from that conflict;
- are ex-prisoners of war;
- receive a disability pension at or above 100% of the general rate;
- receive a disability pension at or above 50% of the general rate plus any amount of service pension;
- receive a disability pension including an additional amount under section 27 of the VEA for specific service-related amputations or blindness in one eye;
- receive a service pension and satisfy the treatment benefits eligibility income and assets test;
- receive a service pension and are permanently blind in both eyes;
- receive a disability pension for pulmonary tuberculosis before 2 November 1978; or
- served in World War I;

Certain dependants of veterans of Australia's Defence Forces:

- A war widow or widower in receipt of the war widow(er)'s pension.
- A dependent child of a deceased veteran whose death has been accepted as war-caused, who is under 16 or between the ages of 16 and 25 and undergoing full-time education.
- A child of a deceased veteran whose death was not war-caused and who had operational service, if the child is not being cared for by the remaining parent.

Some veterans of Commonwealth or Allied forces are eligible for a Gold Card if they are:

- a veteran who served with a Commonwealth or allied force during World War II and who was domiciled in Australia immediately prior to enlistment in the Commonwealth or allied force; or
- a mariner who served on a Commonwealth or allied ship during World War II, if they or their dependants were residing in Australia for a least 12 months prior to the commencement of their service on that ship; and
- meet the eligibility criteria for a Gold Card.

## **Qualifying service**

For the first and second world wars, qualifying service is service rendered during the specified period of hostilities for the wars at sea, in the field, or in the air, in naval, military or aerial operations against the enemy in an area or on an aircraft or ship of war, at a time when the person incurred danger from hostile forces of the enemy in that area or on that aircraft or ship.

For post-World War II service, qualifying service has the meaning given under section 7A of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*. In general terms the person has to have been allotted for duty and served in a specified operational area or have rendered warlike service as part of a specific operation. This includes service in Korea, the Malayan Emergency, the Malay/Thai Border, Vietnam, the Indonesian Confrontation, Ubon, Namibia, the Gulf War, Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Somalia, East Timor or the War on Terrorism.

Declarations of warlike service and allotment are formal processes administered by the Department of Defence and involve the issue of Ministerial Instruments.