



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Claim for \$25,000 *Ex-gratia* Payment by a Surviving Spouse

- of a former prisoner of war (POW) of Germany, Italy or their allies, or
- of a civilian detained or interned by Germany, Italy or their allies during World War II

On 8 May 2007 the Australian Government announced that all Australian service personnel who were held prisoner of war (POW) by Germany, Italy or their allies and civilians who were interned or detained by Germany, Italy or their allies will receive an *ex-gratia* payment of \$25,000 in recognition of the unique hardships they suffered.

Before completing this form

POW status was only noted on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) computer records from 1985 for veterans who were then alive. This means that many war widows eligible for this payment cannot be identified from computer records.

If you are currently receiving a war widows pension and your late spouse was a veteran who was a POW of Germany, Italy or their allies during WWII, you may not have to complete this form.

You should first contact the DVA to check your eligibility from original records by phoning 1800 555 254.

Who is eligible?

This form relates to a person who was **alive on 1 January 2007**, and they were at one time the **widow or widower** of:

- a veteran who was a POW of Germany, Italy or their allies between 3 September 1939 and 11 May 1945, or
- a civilian, who was interned or detained by Germany, Italy or their allies between 3 September 1939 and 11 May 1945, and was domiciled in Australia immediately before their detention or internment.

If an eligible widow or widower has died since 1 January 2007 this form should be completed by the executor of the estate.

The veteran's or civilian's death does not have to be due to their captivity. The later marriage or remarriage of the widow or widower does not affect eligibility for this payment. However, a person who was divorced from the veteran or civilian is not their widow or widower and is ineligible to claim.

Where to lodge this claim

This claim should be sent to:

Department of Veterans' Affairs
GPO Box 9998
Brisbane Qld 4001

Extra information

Please answer all relevant questions and include any other information that you think may help support this claim.

Privacy notice

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Your personal information may be collected by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for the delivery of government programs for war veterans, members of the Australian Defence Force, members of the Australian Federal Police and their dependants.

[Read more: How DVA manages personal information](#)

Exempt Status of the \$25,000 ex-gratia lump sum payment

The ex-gratia lump sum payment itself:

- is **not** taxable; and
- does not affect any disability pension or war widow's/widower's pension; and
- is not counted as income for income support payments made by DVA or Centrelink.

However, if it is invested and earns interest this interest will be classed as income and the income test rules will apply.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence

Section 1.

Widow's or Widower's Details

Surname

Other names in full

Date of birth

Address where you live now

Postcode

Daytime phone number (please include STD code)

Date of marriage to your late spouse

You will have to send your original marriage certificate if a record of your marriage is not already held by DVA.

Were you divorced from your late spouse?

No

Yes - what was the date of the decree absolute?

Have you ever received a war widow's/widower's pension?

No

Yes - please state the number on your Gold Card or from any correspondence from DVA

Section 2.

Your Late Spouse's Details

Spouse's surname

Spouse's other names in full

Spouse's date of birth

Spouse's date of death

Spouse's place of death

Spouse's last home address

Postcode

Did your spouse claim, or receive a pension from DVA?

No Yes - please state the number from any letter from DVA

Section 3.

Your Late Spouse's Captivity Details

Was your spouse:

a member of the Army?

a member of the Navy?

a member of the RAAF?

a merchant mariner?

a civilian?

*Please complete
Section 4*

*Please complete
Section 5*

Section 4.

Armed Forces and Mariners Details

What was your late spouse's rank (or occupation if mariner)

What was your late spouse's service number (not applicable if mariner)

What was the name of your late spouse's ship or unit when captured?

How long did he/she intend to remain overseas?

What was the name of the embarkation ship?

What was the name of the embarkation port?

What was the embarkation date?

Where was he/she living prior to leaving Australia?

When did he/she return to Australia?

If you have evidence that confirms your spouse's internment or detention, please enclose it with your application.

Section 6.

Payment Details

If your claim is successful, the \$25,000 *ex-gratia* payment will be made directly into an account at an Australian bank, credit union or building society.

Name of bank, credit union or building society

Branch

Address

Account in the name of

BSB number

Account number

Account type (e.g. savings)

Section 7.

If you are not a DVA client you are required to show documents that prove your identity when making your claim for payment. You must show original documents or copies that are certified as true copies of the originals.

Declaration

- I declare that the details provided in this form are complete and correct.
- I am aware that there are penalties for making false and misleading statements.
- I authorise the Repatriation Commission and DVA to obtain information needed to process, determine or review this claim.

You must sign this form yourself if you can - even if someone else has filled it in for you. If someone else signs on your behalf they must provide their authority for signing.

Your signature

Date

Before returning this form, please check and tick the following:

- Have you signed the declaration and checked this form carefully?
- Have you filled in all parts that apply to you?
- Have you enclosed any other evidence that you will support your claim?
- Have you enclosed your marriage certificate and your late spouse's death certificate?