



## Situation facing present-day conscientious objectors in different countries in Oceania

| Country                                 | Mandatory military service | Can apply for recognition as a conscientious objector to military service | Challenges for conscientious objectors   | References   |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b><u>Oceania</u></b>                   |                            |   |  | <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/WVI_Child_Soldiers_2019.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/WVI_Child_Soldiers_2019.pdf</a>  |
| <b><u>Australia and New Zealand</u></b> |                            |   |  |  |
| <b>Australia</b>                        | Voluntary                  | Yes   | <p>There is no conscription in Australia. However, minors can join the military with parental consent.</p> <p>There is a National Servicemen's Day on 14 February, when those who served during previous periods of compulsory military service are commemorated.</p> <p>Australia has recognised conscientious objection since their National Defence Act in 1903. Interpretation of this human right has evolved since then, e.g. the grounds for conscientious objection have been widened to include motivations other than religious ones. However, there is no</p> | <p><a href="https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/australias-history-compulsory-military-service">https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/australias-history-compulsory-military-service</a></p> <p><a href="https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22library/prspub/2E296%22">https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22library/prspub/2E296%22</a></p> <p><a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service</a></p> |

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|                         |           |    | recognition of selective conscientious objection yet (objection to participation in a specific war).   |  |
| <b>New Zealand</b>      | Voluntary | No | <p>There is no conscription in New Zealand. However, minors can join the military. They need three years of secondary education in order to join. However, they cannot be deployed until they are 18.</p> <p>Conscientious objection has not been recognised and at times when conscription has been active conscientious objectors have faced difficult challenges. In the past there were serious violations of the right to conscientious objection e.g. before the Second World War those who criticised conscription could be imprisoned.</p> | <p><a href="https://ww100.govt.nz/sites/default/files/files/LOTD%20discussion%20points%20for%20educators.pdf">https://ww100.govt.nz/sites/default/files/files/LOTD%20discussion%20points%20for%20educators.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/stories/history/conscientious-objectors#:~:text=About%20600%20men%20declared%20conscientious,ultimately%20imprisoned%20in%20New%20Zealand.&amp;text=Archibald%20Baxter%20is%20one%20of%20New%20Zealand's%20best%20known%20conscientious%20objectors.">https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/stories/history/conscientious-objectors#:~:text=About%20600%20men%20declared%20conscientious,ultimately%20imprisoned%20in%20New%20Zealand.&amp;text=Archibald%20Baxter%20is%20one%20of%20New%20Zealand's%20best%20known%20conscientious%20objectors.</a></p> <p><a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service</a></p> |
| <b><u>Melanesia</u></b> |           |    |  |  |
| <b>Papua New Guinea</b> | Voluntary | No | <p>There is no conscription - military service is voluntary. In Papua New Guinea minors can join the military, with parental consent. However, a grade 12 from school is required.</p>   | <p><a href="https://theodora.com/wfbcurrent/papua_new_guinea/papua_new_guinea_military.html">https://theodora.com/wfbcurrent/papua_new_guinea/papua_new_guinea_military.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/papua_new_guinea/military_service_age_and_obligation.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/papua_new_guinea/military_service_age_and_obligation.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf">https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service</a></p>  |
| <b>Fiji</b>             | Voluntary | No | <p>In Fiji people can join the military once they are 18.</p>  | <p><a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/fiji/military_service_age_and_obligation.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/fiji/military_service_age_and_obligation.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji">https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/fiji</a></p> <p><a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service</a></p>   |

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| <b>Solomon Islands</b>   | No | No | There are no regular military forces in the Solomon Islands. However, there have been reports of the existence of paramilitary groups.   | <a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/solomon_islands/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/solomon_islands/military_profile.html</a><br><a href="https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Solomon_Islands_2018?lang=en">https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Solomon_Islands_2018?lang=en</a>  |
| <b>Vanuatu</b>           | No | No | There are no regular military forces in Vanuatu. However, there is a small paramilitary group, the Vanuatu Mobile Forces, which acts as a substitute for the police.   | <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/4988062032.html#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20regular%20military,to%20the%20other%20security%20forces.&amp;text=The%20Vanuatu%20Mobile%20Forces%20C%20which,unit%20of%20about%20250%20men.">https://www.refworld.org/docid/4988062032.html#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20regular%20military,to%20the%20other%20security%20forces.&amp;text=The%20Vanuatu%20Mobile%20Forces%20C%20which,unit%20of%20about%20250%20men.</a> |
| <b><u>Micronesia</u></b> |    |    |  |   |
| <b>Micronesia</b>        | No | No | There are no regular security forces in Micronesia. The defence of the country is the responsibility of the USA. There have been reports in the past of the USA wanting Micronesian people to join their army.   | <a href="https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2010/0505/Uncle-Sam-wants-Micronesians-for-US-military">https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2010/0505/Uncle-Sam-wants-Micronesians-for-US-military</a><br><a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/federated_states_of_micronesia/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/federated_states_of_micronesia/military_profile.html</a>  |
| <b>Kiribati</b>          | No | No | There are no regular military forces in Kiribati. The defence of the nation is the responsibility of Australia and New Zealand.  | <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf">https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf</a><br><a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/kiribati/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/kiribati/military_profile.html</a>  |
| <b>Marshall Islands</b>  | No | No | There are no regular security forces. The defence of the islands is the responsibility of the USA.   | <a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/marshall_islands/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/marshall_islands/military_profile.html</a>   |
| <b>Palau</b>             | No | No | There are no regular military forces. However, the Ministry of Justice has sections for public security, the police, and maritime law enforcement. Defence is the responsibility of the USA until 2044. The US has access to the island when required, but at the moment there are no military stations on the island. | <a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/palau/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/palau/military_profile.html</a>   |
| <b>Nauru</b>             | No | No | There are no regular security forces in Nauru. The defence of the island is the responsibility of Australia.   | <a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/nauru/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/nauru/military_profile.html</a><br><a href="https://user.iiasa.ac.at/~marek/fbook/04/geos/nr.html">https://user.iiasa.ac.at/~marek/fbook/04/geos/nr.html</a>  |

| <b><u>Polynesia</u></b> |           |    |   |  |
|-------------------------|-----------|----|---|--|
| <b>Samoa</b>            | No        | No | There are no regular military forces. However, there are informal ties with New Zealand to defend the country when necessary.                               | <a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/samoa/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/samoa/military_profile.html</a><br><a href="https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf">https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/8000/pol310012014en.pdf</a>   |
| <b>Tonga</b>            | Voluntary | No | There is no conscription in Tonga. The underaged can join the military on a voluntary basis. The king retains the right to call up the military in wartime. | <a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-mandatory-military-service</a>  |
| <b>Tuvalu</b>           | No        | No | There are no regular military forces. However, there is a police force.   | <a href="https://.refworld.org/docid/4988062032.html#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20regular%20military,to%20the%20other%20security%20forces.&amp;text=The%20Vanuatu%20Mobile%20Forces%2C%20which,unit%20of%20about%20250%20men.">https://.refworld.org/docid/4988062032.html#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20regular%20military,to%20the%20other%20security%20forces.&amp;text=The%20Vanuatu%20Mobile%20Forces%2C%20which,unit%20of%20about%20250%20men.</a><br><a href="https://www.indexmundi.com/tuvalu/military_profile.html">https://www.indexmundi.com/tuvalu/military_profile.html</a> |

Note

The information in this table relates to official armies in nation states.

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