

**Disability
assistance**

Help when living with a disability



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

WORK AND INCOME
TE HIRANGA TANGATA

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Help when living with a disability

If you or someone you're caring for has a disability, we may be able to help.

You can see what extra help you might get by going to our online eligibility guide *Check what you might get*. It helps you find out the ways we can help you and your family and how to apply.

Go to **check.msd.govt.nz**

If you qualify we can give you financial support from the date you first contact us if you complete your application within 20 working days of that date.

Disability Allowance

The Disability Allowance is an ongoing payment for people who have a disability and need help with everyday tasks or ongoing medical care. It helps with things like regular visits to the doctor or hospital, medicines, medical alarms, extra clothing or travel because of the disability.

You can get a Disability Allowance on its own or with:

- a main benefit (like Supported Living Payment)
- NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension.

You can apply on behalf of a child aged 18 years or under if they're financially dependent on you.

You may get a Disability Allowance if you:

- are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who normally lives here *and*
- have a disability that is likely to last at least six months *and*
- need ongoing help or ongoing medical care.

If you're not on a benefit or are getting NZ Super or a Veteran's Pension, your and your partner's income must be under a certain limit (see below).

| If you're... | Your weekly income before tax must be under |
|--|--|
| Single aged 16–17 years with no children | \$540.59 |
| Single aged 18 years or over with no dependent children | \$661.30 |
| Married, civil union or de facto couple with or without children | \$983.12 |
| Sole parent with one dependent child | \$753.94 |
| Any other sole parent | \$794.34 |

Rates at 1 April 2019

The Disability Allowance is usually paid into your bank account with your benefit or pension (or weekly if you don't get a benefit or pension). The amount you get depends on the extra costs you have because of your disability, up to a certain amount, and it's not taxed.

The Disability Allowance can help pay for a number of things – as long as your doctor tells us you need them because of your disability. Over the page are some of the things we may be able to help with and the sorts of proof we need to see – so keep all your receipts.

Disability Allowance cont...

| Here are some of the extra costs we may be able to help with... | We'll need to see... |
|---|--|
| Doctor's, specialist's and hospital fees that aren't already subsidised | Receipts or invoices showing the date, cost and reason for your visit |
| Prescription fees | Receipts or print-outs from your chemist showing the date, cost, the item you received and whether it's subsidised |
| Travel to your doctor, specialist, hospital or counsellor | Tickets or receipts showing the date, cost and how you travelled (if you travelled in your own car, we need to know the cc rating of your car and how far you travelled) |
| Heating | Your summer and winter electricity bills |
| Medical alarm rental and monitoring | The Disability Allowance – Assessment for Medical Alarm form completed by a doctor, and the contract or receipt for the installation/ rental of the medical alarm. |

Remember – when your Disability Allowance is reviewed, we need to see proof of any costs that have increased or are new. Ask us for a Disability Allowance file to keep your receipts in.

For more information visit our website
workandincome.govt.nz

Special Disability Allowance

The Special Disability Allowance may help with the costs of visiting your partner if they're in hospital (for at least 13 weeks) or getting the Residential Care Subsidy. You must be on a benefit or pension to get this allowance of \$40.10 a week (at 1 April 2019), which is paid with your benefit or pension.

Modification Grant

We also have the Modification Grant for people with disabilities. It helps with the costs of special equipment you may need at work or changes to your workplace so it's easier for you to work. To get the Modification Grant you must have a disability that's likely to last at least six months.

Child Disability Allowance

The Child Disability Allowance is paid to the main caregiver of a child or young person with a serious disability to recognise the extra care the child needs.

To qualify, you must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, who normally lives here *and*
- the main caregiver of the child *or*
- have care and control of the child for the time being if there is no main caregiver.

Also, the child must:

- have a serious physical or intellectual disability *and*
- be aged under 18 years *and*
- need constant care and attention for at least 12 months because of their disability.

You may get both the Disability Allowance and the Child Disability Allowance for the same child. But you can't get this allowance if the child already gets a benefit (except for the Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit). If the child is aged 16 years or over they may get Supported Living Payment.

The Child Disability Allowance is \$48.45 a week (as at 1 April 2019) for each child who qualifies. This is a set amount and doesn't depend on your income or costs. This allowance is paid into your bank account every two weeks and is paid separately from any other assistance you may get.

In most cases, it won't affect any other support you get from us.

Tell us about changes

It's important you tell us about any changes that may affect your payments, for example to your income or relationship.

For the Child Disability Allowance we also need to know if the child leaves your care or goes into hospital.

> *MyMSD – get online, not in line*

Our online service MyMSD is the easy way to keep in touch.

You can use MyMSD on your smartphone, tablet or computer to update your details, look at your letters, check your payments, apply for most types of assistance and more.

It's quick and easy to use and saves you having to wait on the phone or come to see us.

Sign up now at **my.msd.govt.nz**. All you need is your client number.

Important

To apply for any of these types of support, it's important you contact us as soon as possible. This affects the date payments can start from.

If you're applying for the Disability Allowance and the Child Disability Allowance, your doctor must fill in part of the application form. You'll need to bring this when you meet with us.

Try to make sure you bring everything you need to your meeting. However if you don't have all the information yet, it's still important you meet with us.

myMSD

If you already get financial help from us, MyMSD is a great way to keep in touch and tell us about changes quickly and easily.
Go to my.msd.govt.nz



For more information go to
workandincome.govt.nz



If you have any questions

call us on **0800 559 009** from 7am to 6pm
Monday to Friday and Saturday 8am to 1pm,
or visit your nearest Service Centre.

NZ Super/Veteran's Pension clients

call us on **0800 552 002** from 8am to 5pm
Monday to Friday or visit your nearest
Service Centre.



*If you're deaf, hearing-impaired or
find it hard to communicate by phone*

you can contact us on:

Deaf Link free-fax 0800 621 621

Text 029 286 7170

Email MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz