

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Disability Allowance: is available to help people who have ongoing additional expenses because of a disability.

The person can apply for themselves, their partner, or for their dependent child or children.

To be able to receive a Disability Allowance the person must:

- meet an income test
- have a disability which is likely to last at least six months
- have ongoing, additional costs arising from that disability
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and
- generally be ordinarily resident in New Zealand

A Disability Allowance can be paid on it's own or with a main type of income support (like an Invalids Benefit or Domestic Purposes Benefit)

Disability Allowance can be paid to cover the portion of costs that are not met by Health, ACC or other accident insurer.

The maximum Disability Allowance: is \$48.18 a week (as at 1 April 2004)

The amount paid will depend on the extra costs that the person has because of their disability.

Disability Certificate: In order to qualify the Medical Practitioner or Specialist must complete a Disability Certificate confirming the applicant, partner or child has:

- an ongoing disability that is likely to last at least six months **and**
- needs on-going help with normal living tasks or
- ongoing supervision or treatment from a registered health professional

Note: a person with a life expectancy of less than six months because of a terminal illness may also qualify.

The Medical Practitioner or Specialist must confirm any ongoing additional costs that arise from the disability



Work and Income
Te Hiranga Tangata

A service of the Ministry of Social Development

The following is a list of items, services and treatment that may qualify as additional expenses for Disability Allowance:

<i>Ambulance fees and subscriptions</i>	<i>Alternative treatment</i>
<i>Authorised consumables</i>	<i>Clothing</i>
<i>Counselling</i>	<i>Day care for the elderly</i>
<i>Gardening</i>	<i>Medical alarms</i>
<i>Medical fees</i>	<i>Power, gas and heating</i>
<i>Pharmaceutical charges</i>	<i>Rental equipment</i>
<i>Special foods</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
<i>Transport</i>	
<i>Vitamins supplements, herbal remedies and minerals</i>	
<i>Vocational services</i>	

Disability Allowance is granted from:

- the date the application is received **or**
- the day the qualifying cost arose

whichever is the later.

If the person applies for Disability Allowance at the same time as they apply for a main benefit, such as Domestic Purposes, Invalids or Sickness Benefit, then Disability Allowance is granted from the date that benefit commences

The Disability Allowance is reviewed every twelve months: this is to determine whether the ongoing costs have changed or if there have been any changes in the person's circumstances

Special Benefit: where the ongoing costs relating to the disability are over and above the maximum rate of Disability Allowance consideration can be given to the applicant's entitlement to a Special Benefit. This benefit is income and asset tested

**For more information call Work and Income
on 0800 559 009**