



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

when you're
having a baby

Help for the first few months

Paid Parental Leave

Paid Parental Leave is a government-funded payment for working mothers while they take parental leave from their job(s). The payment goes towards the loss of income that working mothers experience when they take parental leave to care for a newborn baby or an adopted child under the age of six. Mothers may also be able to transfer all or part of their entitlement to their partner. Currently you can claim Paid Parental Leave for up to 14 weeks.

For more information about eligibility and the amount that can be claimed, call the Department of Labour on **0800 800 863** or visit **www.ers.dol.govt.nz**



Parental Tax Credit

Parental tax credit is a Working for Families Tax Credits payment to help with the costs of a new baby.

If you apply within three months of the baby's birth, you can get weekly or fortnightly payments for eight weeks. Otherwise you get your payment in a lump sum at the end of the tax year. You can claim a maximum of \$1,200 depending on your family income. To find out more contact Inland Revenue on **0800 227 773** or go to **www.ird.govt.nz**

You can receive either Paid Parental Leave or the parental tax credit, but not both.



Domestic Help

If you've had a multiple birth, have a domestic emergency, or need domestic help with things like laundry, housework, cooking or childcare, you may be able to get Home Help to help with your costs. Unless you've had a multiple birth, your income and assets must be under a certain limit to be eligible. For more information contact Work and Income on **0800 559 009** or visit **www.workandincome.govt.nz**



Help with ongoing costs

Community Services Card

The Community Services Card makes it cheaper for you and your family to visit the doctor and get prescriptions. Call the Community Services Card centre on **0800 999 999** for more details. You may also qualify for a Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card if you need lots of prescriptions – talk with your pharmacist about this.

Working for Families

The Working for Families package includes Working for Families Tax Credits payments, help with childcare costs, and the Accommodation Supplement. Financial support is available for:

- almost all families with children, earning under \$70,000 a year
- many families with children, earning up to \$100,000 a year.

For more information call Working for Families on **0800 774 004** or visit **www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz**

Work and Income

There are lots of ways that Work and Income can help, from financial assistance to linking you with support agencies in your community. The situations we can help with include if you're not able to work because of pregnancy, you're raising children alone, or you're finding it difficult to make ends meet. For more information call Work and Income on **0800 559 009** or visit **www.workandincome.govt.nz**.

If you apply to Work and Income for a sole parent benefit, your benefit payments may be reduced if you don't legally identify the other parent or apply for Child Support. In some situations you may not need to do this, for example if you or your child would be at risk of violence. Work and Income can tell you more about this.

If the father's name is not on the birth certificate, there are several ways to legally identify the other parent. This is known as 'establishing paternity'. Work and Income can help you with this, or you can contact your local Family Court, your local Community Law Centre or a lawyer, or visit **www.justice.govt.nz**. You may be able to get legal aid to help you work through any paternity issues. Talk to your lawyer or your local Community Law Centre about this.

Child Support

Child Support is financial support paid by a parent who doesn't live with their child. This money is collected by Inland Revenue Child Support. If you're not on a sole parent benefit, the child support is paid directly to you after it has been collected. If you are getting a sole parent benefit from Work and Income then the money will be paid to the government to help cover the cost of your benefit.

To find out more contact Inland Revenue Child Support on **0800 221 221** or visit **www.ird.govt.nz/childsupport**



Inland Revenue

Child Support	0800 221 221
Parental Tax Credit	0800 227 773
Deaf and hearing impaired free fax	0800 447 755

www.ird.govt.nz

Work and Income

For all enquiries	0800 559 009
Community Services Card	0800 999 999
DeafLink free fax	0800 621 621

www.workandincome.govt.nz

Working for Families

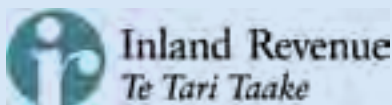
Childcare	0800 774 004
Working for Families Tax Credits	0800 227 773

www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

Department of Labour

Paid Parental Leave	0800 800 863
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www.ers.dol.govt.nz



A service of the Ministry of Social Development