

## WELFARE PROGRAMME (TRAVEL COSTS FOR VISITS TO DESIGNATED DOCTORS)

*This is an unofficial consolidation as at 9 June 2006, produced by and for the Ministry of Social Development and for the use of Work and Income. For official use, reference should be made to the original programme and its amendments.*

Pursuant to section 124 (1) (d) of the Social Security Act 1964, I, PETER JOHN GRESHAM, Minister of Social Welfare, **HEREBY APPROVE** the following welfare programme for special assistance.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 1995

**PETER JOHN GRESHAM**  
Minister of Social Welfare

### SPECIAL NEEDS (TRAVEL COSTS FOR VISITS TO DESIGNATED DOCTORS) PROGRAMME

#### 1 Title and Commencement

- 1.1 This welfare programme shall be known as the Special Needs (Travel Costs for Visits to Designated Doctors) Programme.
- 1.2 This programme shall come into effect on the date that the Minister of Social Welfare has given his approval to it.

#### 2 Objectives of the Programme

- 2.1 The objectives of this programme are to ensure that people referred to a designated medical practitioner for assessment are not out of pocket for their actual and reasonable travel expenses, within the limits prescribed in the programme.

#### 3 Definitions

- 3.1 In this programme, unless the context otherwise requires:

**"Act"** means the Social Security Act 1964.

**"Applicant"** means

- (a) a person applying for an invalid's benefit or a sickness benefit, or
- (b) a person on whose behalf an application is made for an invalid's benefit or a sickness benefit.

**"Beneficiary"** means a person who has been granted an invalid's benefit or a sickness benefit.

**"Designated medical practitioner"** means a registered medical practitioner who is approved by the Director-General to assess whether applicants and beneficiaries meet the medical criteria for payment of invalid's or sickness benefit.

**"Grant"** means a grant made under this programme.

**"Health Agency"** means the Minister of Health, the Ministry of Health, a Purchaser<sup>1</sup> or a Crown Health Enterprise.

3.2 Expressions otherwise defined in section 3 (1) of the Act shall have the meanings so defined unless the context otherwise requires.

#### **4 Application of the Social Security Act 1964**

4.1 Sections 3, 12, 62, 68A, 74, 74A, 81, 82, and 84 of the Act shall apply, with any necessary modifications, to this programme as if a Grant made under this programme were a benefit.

#### **5 Eligibility for Grant**

5.1 An applicant or beneficiary may apply for a Grant under this programme if he or she is referred to a designated medical practitioner by the New Zealand Income Support Service for medical examination and has not been granted disability allowance for the same purpose.

#### **6 Grants**

6.1 Where a person eligible for a Grant under clause 5 applies for a Grant, the Director-General may make a non-recoverable Grant of not more than \$200 for the actual and reasonable travel expenses for a return journey to the place of examination -

(a) of at least 8 kilometres, or

(b) of less than 8 kilometres where

(i) the applicant or beneficiary is unable to use public transport due to disability or

(ii) there is no public transport available.

6.2 The Director-General may extend the Grant made under clause 6.1 to not more than \$400 for the cost of one attendant, if the person requiring medical examination requires attendant help.

6.3 In clause 6.2, "**attendant**" includes a parent or principal caregiver, where the applicant or beneficiary is under the age of 18 years and is single, and "**attendant help**" has a corresponding meaning.

6.4 The Director-General may make a Grant exceeding the amounts prescribed in clause 6.1 and 6.2 where the Director-General considers that exceptional circumstances exist in the particular case.

#### **7 Restriction on payment of Grant**

7.1 Grants under Clause 6.1 and 6.2 shall be made only in respect of that part of the travel costs the applicant is required to pay, after the deduction of -

(a) any subsidy provided by a Health Agency, regional council or local body, or

(b) any health or disability insurance payment to which the applicant or beneficiary is entitled.

## **8 Grants to be non-recoverable**

Grants made under this programme are non-recoverable.

### **Historical notes**

#### **2006**

##### **Instrument amending Ministerial directions and welfare programmes (No 2) 2006**

*This note is not part of the instrument, but is intended to indicate its general effect.*

This instrument, which comes into effect on the day after its publication in the *Gazette*, amends a number of Ministerial directions and welfare programmes under the Social Security Act 1964 to treat people in civil unions in the same way as people in marriages and make related amendments.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This term is defined in section 3(1) of the Social Security Act 1964 to have the same meaning as in the Health and Disability Services Act 1993. In effect it means the Public Health Commission or a Regional Health Authority. See also section 20 of that Act.