



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

WORK AND INCOME
TE HIRANGA TANGATA



Accommodation Supplement



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What is in this document

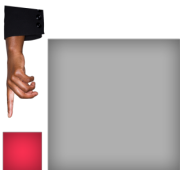
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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is from the
Ministry of Social Development.



The Ministry of Social Development
is sometimes called **MSD** for short.

WORK AND INCOME
TE HIRANGA TANGATA

Work and Income is part of MSD.



This Easy Read is about the
Accommodation Supplement.



In this document the words **we / us**
mean MSD.



The **Accommodation Supplement** is a weekly payment which helps people with:

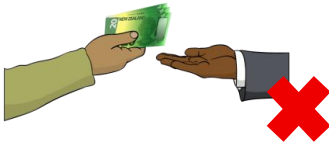
- their rent
- their board
- the cost of owning a home.

Who can get Accommodation Supplement?



You may get Accommodation Supplement if you:

- have accommodation costs like the rent you pay
- are not paying rent for a **public / social housing** property.



Public housing is a house you rent from:

- the Government
- a public organisation like:
 - Kāinga Ora
 - an approved community housing provider.



You may get Accommodation Supplement if you:

- are 16 years old or older
- normally live in New Zealand
- plan to stay in New Zealand
- are a New Zealand:
 - **citizen**
 - **permanent resident.**



A New Zealand **citizen** is someone who can get a New Zealand passport.

Many New Zealand citizens are born in New Zealand.

Some people who come to live in New Zealand from overseas also become New Zealand citizens.





A New Zealand **permanent resident** is someone who:

- was not born in New Zealand
- has been told by the Government they can live in New Zealand all the time.



Getting Accommodation Supplement also depends on:

- how much money you make from working
- any money / assets you have like money saved in the bank.

If you have a partner we will count:



- how much money you both make
- any money / assets you both have.

Minimum accommodation costs



To get Accommodation Supplement you need to be paying a **minimum amount** of accommodation costs each week.



Here the **minimum amount** means the amount of money you need to pay for your housing before getting Accommodation Supplement from us.



This is also called Accommodation Supplement entry threshold.



There is a list of Accommodation Supplement entry thresholds at this **website:**

www.workandincome.govt.nz/benefit-rates



This website is not in Easy Read.

How much can I get?



How much Accommodation

Supplement you get depends on:

- how much money you get to live on
- assets / things you own
- your accommodation costs
- where you live
- what is happening with the rest of your family.





To check what you might get you can go to this website:

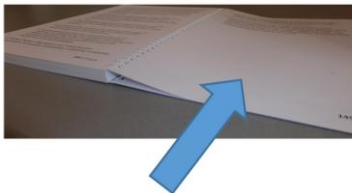
<https://check.msd.govt.nz/>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

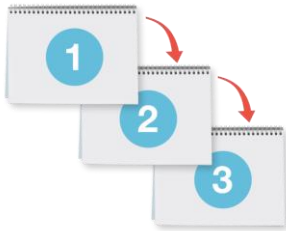


You can also contact us to find out how much you might get.



Information on how to contact us is on **pages 19 to 21**.

How to apply for Accommodation Supplement



There are 3 different ways to apply for Accommodation Supplement.

How to apply if you are not a Work and Income client yet or only get childcare payments

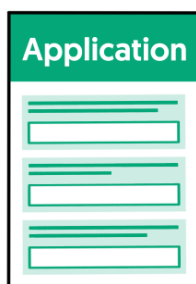


You can apply:

- online through **MyMSD**

or

- fill out a printed Extra Help application.



myMSD

MyMSD is a way to stay in touch with MSD online.



The Extra Help application form is at this **website**:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/extra-help



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



You will need to show us proof of how much you pay for your housing with this application form.



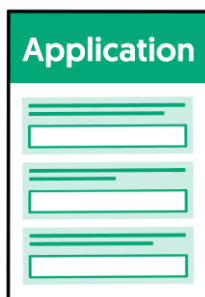
How to apply if you are already getting a main benefit or allowance

You can apply:

- online through My MSD

or

- by filling out a printed Accommodation Supplement application form.



The Accommodation Supplement application form is at this **website**:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/as-form



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



You will need to show us proof of how much you pay for your housing with this application form.

How to apply if you are a student



You can apply through the StudyLink website:

www.studylink.govt.nz/as-students



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

You can fill out a printed Extra Help application form if you cannot do the form online.



The Extra Help application form is at this **website**:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/extra-help



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



You will need to show StudyLink proof of how much you pay for your housing with this application form.

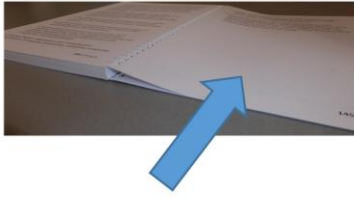


You can get this information to your Work and Income service centre by:

- dropping it off
- post.



We will pass the information to StudyLink.



Information about our service centres
is on **page 22**.

What happens next?



After you apply we may book an appointment with you if we need more information.



This appointment could be:

- in person
- over the phone.



Tell us about any changes to your information



If you get Accommodation Supplement from us you need to let us know if things change like your:

- address
- rent
- board costs
- other accommodation costs like how much you pay for water.



How to contact us



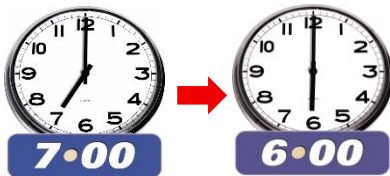
You can contact us by calling:

0800 559 009

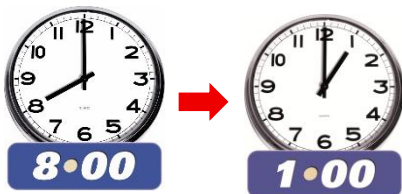


This number does not cost money to call.

You can call this number on:



- Monday to Friday:
 - from 7 am to 6 pm



- Saturday:
 - from 8 am to 1 pm.



If you find it hard to use the phone
you can:

- **text** us on:

4206



- **email** us:

MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz



You can find more information about
our Deaf Services at this **website**:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/deaf-services



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



You can also contact us using the New Zealand Relay service.

The **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:



- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:

www.nzrelay.co.nz



You can find information about the
Work and Income service centre
nearest you at this **website**:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/service-centres



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This information has been written by the Ministry of Social Development.

Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

People First NZ
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



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