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

WORK AND INCOME
TE HIRANGA TANGATA

Child Disability Allowance

Adapted in 2026 by Accessible Formats Service,
Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

TN: The logo at the top of the page is Ministry of Social Development — Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora and Work and Income — Te Hiranga Tangata.

Note: Information about ways you can contact Work and Income are listed at the end of this information.

Child Disability Allowance

Child Disability Allowance is a payment made to the main carer of a child or young person with a serious disability. It is paid to the main carer of the child to recognise the **extra care and attention** provided.

Who can get it?

You may get a Child Disability Allowance if:

- you are the main carer of the child (or if there is no main carer, you have care of the child for the time being) **and**
- you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident **and**
- the child has been assessed as needing **constant care and attention** for 12 months or more because of a serious disability, **and**
- the child or young person is under 18.

Both you and the child should also normally live in New Zealand and intend to stay here.

What type of condition or care gets this support?

Your child needs to have a physical, sensory, mental health, intellectual or developmental disability or chronic medical condition **and** need constant care and attention because of the disability either permanently or for more than 12 months.

Constant care and attention means that your child needs the following, more than that normally required by a child or young person of the same age.

- frequent attention from another person to support their bodily functions as the result of the disability e.g. needing to help your child with feeding / eating, daily hygiene or going to the toilet.
- a lot more attention and supervision than is normally required for functions such as activities of daily living, mobility, learning, behaviour and / or health needs e.g. assistance with medical procedures or frequent appointments related to their condition or disability.
- regular supervision to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others and where there is a real threat of physical or mental harm e.g. a child who regularly runs away from the home and / or other places.

Note: You may be able to get both the Child Disability Allowance and the Disability Allowance for the same child.

More information about Disability Allowance can be found here www.workandincome.govt.nz/da

How much you can get.

The Child Disability Allowance is a set amount and does not depend on your income, assets, or costs. We will pay this allowance into your bank account every 2 weeks. It will be paid separately from any other assistance you may get.

Current payment rates are listed here www.workandincome.govt.nz/benefit-rates

When you can't get this payment

You can't get a Child Disability Allowance if:

- the child you are looking after is in the care of Oranga Tamariki, or
- the child already gets a benefit (unless they get the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit).

If the child is 16 or over, they may be able to get Supported Living Payment instead.

How to apply

- You need to print out and complete the Child Disability Allowance application form which is here www.workandincome.govt.nz/cda-form
- Your child's health practitioner (e.g. doctor or specialist) needs to complete the medical certificate which is in the application form.

If you can't print the form out, you can contact us and ask for one to be sent to you.

You can post or bring the completed form to your nearest service centre.

Providing proof of the level of care your child needs.

The more information you provide with your application, the less likely we are to need more information.

Sometimes we need more medical information that will help us decide if your child's care meets one or more of the types of care listed above.

Some documents it is useful for you to provide are listed below. Don't worry if you don't have these types of documents, just provide us with what you can.

- The most recent letters or assessments from your child's specialist(s) about their condition(s) and the impact
- A current Needs Assessment Service Coordination (NASC) report
- A Special Education or ORS (Ongoing Resource Scheme) assessment

Options for contacting Work and Income

You are always welcome to let us know if you have a specific communication need.

Phone call

Call our general enquiries team on 0800 559 009. Our phone line is open Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm.

Text or Email

If **you** are deaf or disabled **and** your health condition or disability prevents you from calling us, you can text us on **4206** (charges may apply depending on your mobile provider) or email us at

[MSD Deaf Services@msd.govt.nz](mailto:MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz) More information about what Deaf Services can help you with is at www.workandincome.govt.nz/deaf-services

NZ Relay

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or have speech communications difficulties you can also use NZ Relay to connect with Work and Income via their website located here [Use NZ Relay Service - www.nzrelay.co.nz](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz) or by using the free NZ Relay App.

Finding your nearest service centre

We have many service centres around New Zealand. You can find the physical address and the postal address of a service centre near you here www.workandincome.govt.nz/service-centres

End of Child Disability Allowance