

Carer Support

What is Carer Support?

Carer Support is a subsidy funded by the Ministry of Health. It is designed to assist the unpaid full-time carer of a person with a disability to take a break from caring for that person. Carer support provides reimbursement of some of the costs of using a support person to care for the disabled person. This means the full-time carer can take some time out for themselves. The number of hours or days that carer support is funded for is determined by the needs of the carer and the disabled person.

Who is a full time carer?

A full time carer is the person who provides more than 4 hours per day unpaid care to a disabled person, for example the parent of a disabled child.

How do I get Carer Support?

You can be assessed by a Needs Assessment Service Co-ordination (NASC) organisation or, in some circumstances, by a doctor. They will then allocate your Carer Support days and undertake a review with you, usually after a year.

How can I use my Carer Support?

Carer Support is designed to be flexible and can be paid to friends, some family members or neighbours who provide relief care or to people who provide relief care in a formal setting, for example a rest home.

Carer Support cannot be used

- While the full-time carer is at work
- By the parent or partner of the disabled person
- To convalesce after discharge from hospital
- If the support carer lives at the same address as the full-time carer.

What are Carer Support payments regarded as?

Carer Support payments may be subject to Income Tax. This will depend on your individual circumstances. You may wish to seek advice regarding tax issues from the Inland Revenue Department, or if you receive a benefit, you should contact Work and Income New Zealand.

How can I get more information?

You can contact your local NASC which can be found online at www.moh.govt.nz/disability under contact details. Your doctor should also be able to refer you to your local NASC.

You can call HealthPac on 0800 281 222 (press 1).

You can also contact your local Disability Information Service (look in the phone book under 'D') or online at www.moh.govt.nz/disability under contact details (DIAS).

For more information on Disability Services, and the services we fund, go to www.moh.govt.nz/disability, email disability@moh.govt.nz, or call 0800 DSD MOH (373 664).

Other Fact Sheets in this series include:

- Community Residential Support Services
- Disability Information Advisory Service (DIAS)
- Home and Community Support Services (HCSS)
- Needs Assessment and service Co-ordination (NASC)
- Respite Services
- Frequently Asked Questions
- How can I make a complaint?

Other pamphlets in this series:

- Information on Disability Support Services
- Equipment and Modifications

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