

**EVIDENCE CENTRE**  
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

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**Appendix Four:**  
**Understanding children with**  
**disabilities in the Family**  
**Start programme**

September 2019



**ORANGA  
TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children

# EVIDENCE CENTRE

## TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

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Aurora Centre, 56 The Terrace, Wellington

The Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre works to build the evidence base that helps us better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for New Zealand's children, young people and their whānau.

Email: [research@ot.govt.nz](mailto:research@ot.govt.nz)

**Authors:** Paula Pereda-Perez, Senior Analyst, Research and Evaluation

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# APPENDIX 4: SUPPORTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

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## Disability Support Services (Ministry of Health-funded services)<sup>1</sup>

The Ministry funds a range of Disability Support Services (DSS) for people who have physical, intellectual or sensory disabilities (or a combination of these) that are likely to continue for at least six months and limit their ability to function independently, to the extent that ongoing support is required. DSS is also available for people with some neurological conditions that result in permanent disabilities, some developmental disabilities in children and young people, such as autism, and physical, intellectual or sensory disabilities that co-exist with health conditions and/or injuries.

### Needs Assessment and Service Coordination Service (NASCs)

NASCs are organisations contracted by the DSS unit, Ministry of Health to work with disabled people and their families, whānau or carers, to identify their strengths and support needs, outline what disability support services are available and determine their eligibility for Ministry-funded support services. Needs assessments are available for people who meet the Ministry's definition of disability.

### Autism Spectrum Disorder Support (ASD)

The following ASD-specific support services are available:

- ASD-specific Disability Information and Advisory Services (DIAS).
- ASD parent education (ASD Plus, TIPS for Autism, Growing up with Autism).
- ASD Communication and Behaviour Support.
- ASD Developmental Coordination.

### Child Development Services

Child Development Services are available for pre-school children with disabilities or who are developmentally delayed. The service provides specialist assessment, intervention and management services to ensure good rehabilitation/habilitation results for children who have intellectual, sensory or physical disabilities.

Child Development Services is a non-medical, multidisciplinary allied health and community-based service that usually take place in the home or sometimes in other community settings.

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<sup>1</sup> The content on Disability Support Services has been taken from the Ministry of Health website [www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services](http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services), and provides only a snapshot of the information available. For further and up-to-date information about Disability Support Services, refer to the Ministry's website.

## **Behaviour Support Services**

Behaviour Support Services are for people with intellectual disabilities whose behaviour makes it difficult for them to engage in everyday routines, settings, activities and relationships.

## **Supported Living**

Supported Living is a service that helps disabled people to live independently by providing support in those areas of their lives where help is needed. Areas where support may be needed include using community facilities, shopping, budgeting or cooking, and help when dealing with agencies such as WINZ or a bank. Supported Living is available to anyone aged 17 or older who is assessed as meeting the Ministry of Health's DSS eligibility criteria.

## **Respite Services – Carer Support**

In the context of disability support, respite aims to provide families or carers with a planned, temporary break from caring for people with disabilities. The primary purpose of respite is to relieve carers' stress as a way of supporting them to continue in their caring role. A break can be for a few hours, a day, overnight or longer and may take place in or away from the family home.

Carer Support is a subsidy that helps full-time carers (people who provide more than four hours per day of unpaid care to disabled people, for example the parent of a disabled child) to take some time out for themselves. It reimburses some of the costs of using a support person to care and support a disabled person while the carer has a break.

## **Equipment and Modifications Service (EMS)**

This support is available for people who have physical, intellectual, sensory (vision or hearing) and/or age-related disabilities. EMS provides:

- equipment for disabled people (wheelchairs, shower stools, raised toilet seats, adjustable beds etc)
- housing modifications for disabled people
- vehicle modifications for disabled people
- hearing and vision services (hearing aids, cochlear implants, children's spectacles, contact lenses).

## **Community Residential Support Services**

Community Residential Support Services assist disabled people to live in a supported community environment with:

- planning and preparing meals
- personal care
- participating in the community
- developing skills for everyday living
- household tasks such as laundry and housework.

## **Home and Community Support Services**

Home and Community Support Services help disabled people to live at home and include household management and personal care help, such as:

- meal preparation
- washing, drying and folding clothes
- essential house cleaning, vacuuming and tidying up
- eating and drinking
- getting dressed and undressed
- getting up in the morning and getting ready for bed
- showering and going to the toilet
- getting around the home.

## Travel and national accommodation – national travel assistance (NTA)

Funded by the Ministry of Health, the NTA scheme provides financial assistance to people for whom the cost of travel is a barrier to accessing treatment. It is not possible to cover the total cost in all instances due to limited funds. Eligible people may be able to claim for kilometres travelled by private car or public transport, accommodation and specialised transport (such as taxis, mobility taxis and air travel). For further details, visit [health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/claims-provider-payments-and-entitlements/national-travel-assistance](http://health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/claims-provider-payments-and-entitlements/national-travel-assistance).

## Mobility Parking Permit – CCS Disability Action

Mobility Parking Permit holders can use mobility parking spaces, which are wider than standard parks and close to venues. These spaces are marked with the disability symbol and in many areas are now painted blue.

The permit also allows the permit holder to park in some regular parking spaces for longer than the designated time. This varies depending on where in New Zealand the permit holder lives. For more detail, refer to the CCS website [ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/mobility-parking](http://ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/mobility-parking).

## Early Intervention Services (Ministry of Education-funded services – help for children with special needs)<sup>2</sup>

Special Education services and supports are available for children with special education needs who have not yet started school.

Early Intervention Services provide specialist support for children who have developmental or learning delays, disabilities, behaviour difficulties or communication difficulties that significantly affect their ability to participate and learn at home or in an early childhood education setting.

Early Intervention teams include a range of specialists who work with families and children and their early childhood education centres. Services and supports available include:

- Advisor on Deaf Children (AODC)
- Early Intervention Teachers
- Kaitakawaenga or Māori Cultural Advisors
- Psychologists
- Speech-language Therapists (SLTs).

## Payments and benefits available when caring for a child with a health condition or disability – Work and Income<sup>3</sup>

### Child Disability Allowance

Child Disability Allowance is a fortnightly payment (of \$48.45 a week) made to the main carer of a child or young person with a serious disability. It is paid in recognition of the extra care and attention needed for that child.

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<sup>2</sup> The content on the Early Intervention Services available for children with special education needs has been taken from the Ministry of Education website [www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/learning-tools-and-resources/early-intervention](http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/learning-tools-and-resources/early-intervention) and provides only a snapshot of the information available. For more details on the Early Intervention Services, visit the Ministry's website or refer to the information sheet at [www.parents.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Special-Education/Early-Intervention-Service.pdf](http://www.parents.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Special-Education/Early-Intervention-Service.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The content on the payments and benefits available for children with disabilities and their families has been taken from the Work and Income (WINZ) website [workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/carers/care-child-with-a-disability.html#null](http://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/carers/care-child-with-a-disability.html#null) and provides only a snapshot of the information available. Note the list of payments and benefits is not exhaustive. For further and up-to-date information, refer to WINZ's website.

## **Disability Allowance**

Disability Allowance is a weekly payment (of up to \$64.29 a week) for people who have regular, ongoing costs because of disabilities, such as the costs of visits to doctors or hospitals, medicines, extra clothing or travel.

## **Community Services Card**

A Community Services Card can help with the costs of healthcare. People pay less for some health services simply by showing their cards. Most people who are on a benefit automatically get one of these cards. People on low incomes can also apply for one.

## **Supported Living Payment**

Supported Living Payment is a weekly payment to help people who have, or are caring for others with, health conditions, injuries or disabilities.

## **Orphan's Benefit**

Orphan's Benefit is a weekly payment that helps carers supporting children or young people whose parents have died, cannot be found or cannot look after them because they have long-term health conditions or incapacity.

## **Emergency Benefit**

If you cannot support yourself and do not qualify for any other payment, you may be able to get the Emergency Benefit.

## **Childcare Assistance**

Childcare Assistance includes a range of childcare services and supports for preschool children. For more information, refer to the quick guide to the types visit [workandincome.govt.nz/providers/childcare-assistance/types-of-childcare-available.html](http://workandincome.govt.nz/providers/childcare-assistance/types-of-childcare-available.html).

