



Vision to Cure. Mission to Care.

## Government Financial Support

There are several different types of benefits that you may be entitled to. The types of benefits are listed here:

- **Jobseeker Support (JSS)** – Jobseeker Support is a weekly payment that helps people while they are looking for work or can't work right now. This benefit applies to those who can work full-time and are taking reasonable steps to look for work.
- **Jobseeker Support with medical deferral** – This applies to those who have a health condition, injury or disability that limits their ability to work, but who can work part-time, and to those who currently can't work at all but will be able to work part-time or full-time within 2 years.
- **Sole Parent Support (SPS)** – Sole Parent Support is a weekly payment that helps single parents to find part-time work or get ready for future work. This benefit helps you to get ready for future work (if your youngest child is under 3), supports you to find part-time work (if your youngest child is 3 or over) and may mean you can get help with education and training.
- **Supported Living Payment (SLP)** – Supported Living Payment is a weekly payment to help you if you have or are caring for someone with a significant health condition, injury or disability. This applies to people who are permanently and severely restricted in their capacity to work (incapable of working 15 hours or less in open employment for over 2 years) because of a health condition or disability. This includes people who are totally blind, terminally ill, and those who have severe intellectual or cognitive impairment and normally require residential, hospital, rest home, or extended care services.
- **Supported Living Payment for Full-time Carer (SLP Carer)**– Supported Living Payment for carers is a weekly payment to help you if you are caring for someone with a health condition, injury or disability. **Carers of a spouse or partner don't qualify for this.** The person will require 24-hour access to care and attention. If the person does not need full-time care and attention, **the carer isn't eligible for SLP Carer**, but may qualify for another benefit.
- **Emergency Benefit** – for clients who are not eligible for another benefit and are unable to earn sufficient livelihood due to a health condition, an injury or a

disability; domestic circumstance such as caring responsibilities; age 16 or 17 years old and any other reason such as residential status.

Even if you are ineligible for a benefit, WINZ could provide the following support for you if your circumstances align with the assessment criteria.

### **Extra help**

- **Accommodation Supplement** – To assist low-income people with high accommodation costs.
- **Disability Allowance** – To assist people with high medical costs for any conditions, injury or disability lasting over 6 months.
- **Child Disability Allowance** – Paid to the principal caregiver of a dependent child who has a physical, sensory, psychiatric, or intellectual disability and will need constant care and attention because of their disability. The child must require constant care and attention for 12 months or more.
- **Temporary Additional Support** – Is a non-taxable supplement that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks to assist the client with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met by their income and other resources. The client must ensure they take reasonable steps towards reducing their costs or increasing their income.
- **Transition to Work Grant** – Non-taxable, non-recoverable payment to help meet additional costs essential for transitioning into employment. Essential costs include job-related clothing, transport costs, tools, relocation costs, and bridging finance to cover essential living expenses until they get their first pay.
- **New Employment Transition Grant** – The client must have had their benefit cancelled or suspended (within the last 6 months), have dependent children, and be unable to work because they are sick, or their partner or dependent children are sick. This is for the period when they are not entitled to sick leave with their new employment.

## **How to apply for a Government benefit through Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ)**

### **Applying online**

Complete and submit your application online through the Work and Income website [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

It's important to talk to Work and Income as soon as possible after your diagnosis, should you require additional financial support. There are often stand-down periods after benefits are approved and processed through MSD – these are a maximum of two weeks but can still implicate you financially if you're not prepared.

Even if you are ineligible for a benefit, there are still ways WINZ can support you on your recovery journey or whilst you are caring for someone else.

When determining whether you are eligible for a benefit, Work and Income assess and process your application based on your personal circumstances. This includes but is not limited to:

- Your earning history
- Your relationship status
- Residential status
- Your medical situation/diagnosis or the medical situation/diagnosis of the individual you are caring for
- Income testing
- Ability or inability to work

The online application will work out the type of financial assistance you may be eligible for. You will then be advised to either:

- Meet with a case manager
- Print and post your application and supporting documents
- Wait for WINZ to contact you.

You may need to complete a Self-Assessment questionnaire as part of your application. You will be advised if you need to complete one.

## **What documents will I need?**

### **Medical Certificate**

You will need a medical certificate from your doctor to tell WINZ how your health condition or disability affects your ability to work. Most GPs now send medical certificates electronically to Work and Income if you communicate with your GP at the time of your diagnosis/appointment that you will require additional financial support.

If you already have a Work and Income client number, make sure your doctor includes that on the certificate. You will need to bring or send in your medical certificate if your doctor is unable to do it electronically.

### **Supporting Documents**

You will need to have your supporting documents ready to bring to your appointment with a case manager. This will help to speed up the application process. If you are physically unable to attend your meeting with the case manager, you can arrange for the case manager to meet you at your place of residence. See the list below – you can also find this online or in the email you receive after submitting your application.

You must bring the original documents to your appointment with the case manager. These will be returned to you once they are scanned and recorded.

- Online Application reference number – make a note of your application reference number and bring it with you
- Proof of identity - You must bring the following identification, with one of the documents being at least two years old:
  - If you were born in New Zealand** - one type of official identification that has your full legal name and your date of birth (for example, your birth certificate, passport, driver's licence, firearms licence, deed poll)
  - If you were born overseas** - proof that you have a right to live in New Zealand (for example, a citizenship certificate, a New Zealand passport, a passport from another country with residence class visa or proof of permanent residence)
  - If your name has changed** - your marriage certificate, deed poll, or other proof of the name change
- You will also need to bring **two more additional documents** to prove your identity. (E.g. a marriage certificate, bank statement, phone account or driver's licence).
- Proof of your bank account details, such as a bank statement or deposit slip
- A form or letter from Inland Revenue showing your tax number or a myIR printout which also shows their web address and logo
- Your earning details for the past 12 months, by way of your payslips if you've recently been made redundant, or you can request the earning details from Inland Revenue

### **Documents for specific benefits**

You will also need to bring the following if you are applying for:

#### **Jobseeker Support:**

- Current CV or details of your work qualifications (for example, training certificates and references from employers)
- A medical certificate and a completed Self-Assessment questionnaire if you have a health condition, injury or disability that stops you from working full-time.

#### **Supported Living Payment:**

If you are applying because of a health condition, injury or disability you need to bring:

- A medical certificate from a medical practitioner or existing reports or assessments (for example, a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) or a report from a specialist).
- You may also need to complete a Self-Assessment questionnaire.

If you're applying because you're caring for someone who would otherwise require hospital care, or a similar level of care:

- A medical certificate for the person you're caring for, completed by a registered medical practitioner – in most cases the usual doctor or specialist of the person being cared for.

**Disability Allowance:**

- Proof of health-related costs
- A Disability Allowance medical certificate.

**Accommodation Supplement:**

- Proof of health-related costs
- Proof of accommodation costs
- Proof of your assets and value

**Temporary Additional Support:**

- Proof of any essential ongoing costs
- Proof of accommodation costs
- Proof of your assets and their value

**Childcare assistance:**

- Proof of your assets and their value
- Proof of your work, course or study and number of hours (for example, a letter from an employer, an employment contract or a confirmation of study proof of accommodation costs)
- Have your childcare service or OSCAR programme supervisor complete a given form

**Depending on your situation, you may also need to bring:**

- Proof of any before-tax income for the 52 weeks before the application (for example, wages, holiday pay and any other income) and details of your income for the last 26 weeks
- Full birth certificates for each dependent child in your care
- Proof of any other essential ongoing costs (for example hire purchases)
- Proof of your assets and their value
- Your business accounts, if you have your own business
- Trust documents, if you are involved in a trust (for example, trust deed, deed of debt, gift statements, accounts).

**If you have a partner, you must bring your partner's:**

- Two forms of identification (for example, birth certificate, passport or driver's licence)
- Proof of any name change (for example, deed poll or marriage or civil union certificate)

- Proof of their bank account details (for example, a bank statement with their account number) and proof of their tax number, such as a form or letter from Inland Revenue, or a myIR printout which also shows Inland Revenue’s web address and logo
- Proof of any before-tax income for the 52 weeks before the application (for example, wages, holiday pay and any other income) and details of their income for the last 26 weeks.

## Submitting your application

You will need to print out your application and sign it (you will get the option to print this online).

If you didn’t print out your application or don’t have a printer, call 0800 559 009 to have a copy of your application posted out to you. If you have a spouse/partner, they will also need to sign the ‘client obligations’ part of the application. You will need to print this part of the application and have your spouse/partner sign this if they’re not coming with you to your appointment.

Applying for benefits can be a complex and taxing process. Often, reaching out to Work and Income directly for specific advice on what kind of benefit would be most relevant to your specific set of circumstances is the easiest way to begin the process.

Also, most communities will have Citizens Advice Bureaus with trusted and knowledgeable advisors who can support you with your benefit paperwork.

## Useful contacts and sources

If you have any questions about benefits and entitlements, visit the Work and Income website for more information, or ring their Contact Centre (0800 559 009).

[www.employment.govt.nz](http://www.employment.govt.nz) [www.employment.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/tools-and-resources/publications/leave-and-holidays.pdf](http://www.employment.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/tools-and-resources/publications/leave-and-holidays.pdf) [www.kiwisaver.govt.nz](http://www.kiwisaver.govt.nz)  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

***Please note that this document is a guide only. Some benefits are income tested and due to the different circumstances of each individual, the financial assistance you qualify for may differ. To find out which benefit may be available to you, you can complete an eligibility test online before you submit your application. Alternatively, you can phone WINZ to speak to a case worker.***