

Relocate for Work Support Programme

This welfare programme is made under section 101(1) of the Social Security Act 2018, by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

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Programme

1 Title

This programme is the Relocate for Work Support Programme.

2 Commencement

This programme comes into force on 31 March 2025.

3 Purpose of this programme

The purpose of this programme is to provide limited financial support for eligible applicants to relocate for an offer of suitable and sustainable employment.

Part 1

General Provisions

4 Interpretation

- (1) In this programme, unless the context otherwise requires, —
- Act** means the Social Security Act 2018
- applicant** means a person—
- (a) applying for a grant under this programme; or
 - (b) on whose behalf an application for a grant is made
- at risk of long-term benefit receipt** in relation to a person, means the risk that the person will receive or continue to receive a main benefit under the Act for an indefinite period
- grant** means a payment made under clause 11, which may be comprised of one amount from both Schedule 1 and 2 of this programme
- immediate family** means the applicant's spouse or partner and their dependent children
- minimum wage** means a wage that meets the relevant minimum wage requirements under the Minimum Wage Act 1983
- sustainable employment** means a period of employment that is permanent or a fixed term contract of 12 months or longer
- viable commute** means a distance that is practical for the applicant to travel between their place of residence and their place of employment
- working-age** in relation to a person means—
- (a) an age in the range 18-64 years inclusive; and
 - (b) includes an age of or over 65 years in relation to a person who is not qualified to receive New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension
- (2) Terms otherwise used in this programme that are defined in Schedule 2 of the Act have the same meanings in this programme.

5 Application of the Act

- (1) Sections 8, 110 to 113, 290 to 295, 298, 299, 301, 304, 305, 306, 337, 353 to 358, 362, 417 and clause 1 of Schedule 6 of the Act are to apply, with any necessary modifications, to this programme and any applicant as if grants under this programme were a benefit.
- (2) Nothing in subclause (1) limits the application of any other provisions of the Act.

Part 2

Eligibility

6 Eligibility for grants

An applicant is eligible for a grant under this programme if they have accepted an offer of employment, as described in clause 7, and MSD is satisfied that, at the time they apply for a grant, they—

- (a) are receiving a main benefit; and

- (b) are of working age; and
- (c) are at risk of long-term benefit receipt; and
- (d) have not been able to obtain suitable and sustainable employment that is a viable commute from their principal place of residence; and
- (e) have obtained accommodation that is adequate to meet the needs of the applicant and (if applicable), their immediate family, in the place they will be relocating to for the offer of employment they have accepted; and
- (f) agree to cancel their main benefit from the date the employment described in clause 7 commences; and
- (g) meet the relevant cash asset limit in clause 8.

7 Employment requirement

For the purposes of this programme, MSD must be satisfied that the offer of employment referred to in clause 6 —

- (a) is located in New Zealand; and
- (b) is suitable and sustainable; and
- (c) is not a viable commute from the applicant's principal place of residence; and
- (d) consists of at least:
 - (i) 30 hours of employment per week paying at least the minimum wage; or
 - (ii) less than 30 hours of employment per week if the total weekly wage the applicant receives is the same or more than 30 hours per week of employment at the minimum wage; or
 - (iii) 20 hours per week of employment, if, when MSD makes a grant under this programme, the applicant is a work-tested sole parent support beneficiary or a sole parent who has been granted an Emergency Benefit under section 63 of the Act and whose youngest dependent child is aged 3 years or older.

8 Cash assets limit

- (1) For the purposes of clause 6(g), the cash assets of the applicant and their spouse or partner (if any) must not exceed the appropriate limits in subclause (2).
- (2) The cash assets limits referred to in subclause (1) are—
 - (a) \$4,500 for a single applicant; or
 - (b) \$6,500 for an applicant in a relationship; or
 - (c) \$7,500 for an applicant with a dependent child or children.
- (3) In this clause, **cash assets** has the same meaning as in regulation 60 of the Social Security Regulations 2018.

9 Ineligibility

MSD must not make a grant under clause 11 to any applicant who—

- (a) has already relocated for the employment that they are applying for a grant for under this programme; or
- (b) has received a grant under clause 6A(c) or a grant for relocation costs under 6(1)(f) of the Schedule of the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme, for the same offer of employment they are applying for a grant for under this programme.

Part 3 Administration

10 Applications for a grant

- (1) MSD must not make a grant under this programme unless MSD has received—
 - (a) an application for a grant completed by or on behalf of the applicant to MSD's satisfaction, in such form as the chief executive from time to time prescribes; and
 - (b) any other supporting evidence reasonably required by MSD.
- (2) The application referred to in subclause (1) does not have to refer to assistance of any particular kind.
- (3) Any applicant under this programme must be ordinarily resident and present in New Zealand at the time they apply for a grant.

11 Payment and amount of grant

- (1) MSD may make a grant, of the relevant kinds described in the Schedules, to an applicant who is eligible under clause 6.
- (2) In exercising the discretion in subclause (1), MSD must have regard to the applicant's circumstances to determine which amounts in the Schedules are most appropriate for the applicant's relocation.
- (3) Despite subclause (2) MSD must—
 - (a) only pay 1 amount from each of the Schedules; and
 - (b) not make a payment to an applicant from Schedule 2 if the applicant does not require financial assistance to move their possessions; and
 - (c) where an applicant intends to relocate by both land and air or sea, only pay the applicant the relevant amount in clause 2 of Schedule 1; and
 - (d) where an applicant, despite having an immediate family, only intends to relocate themselves or part of their immediate family, only pay the amount that reflects the members of their immediate family who are relocating with them; and
 - (e) not make a grant to an applicant if they or their spouse or partner (if any) have already received a grant under this programme within the previous 52-weeks.
- (4) Grants under this programme must be paid as 1 lump sum to the applicant.

12 Conditions of grant

- (1) It is a condition of every grant that the applicant—
 - (a) uses the grant for the cost of relocating to the employment described in clause 7; and
 - (b) relocates for the offer of employment referred to in clause 6 within 28 days of the grant being made by MSD; and

- (c) where they receive a payment under clause 2 of Schedule 1, relocate to the accommodation described in clause 6(e) by air or sea; and
- (d) where they have received a payment under Schedule 2, uses that portion of the grant exclusively for moving their possessions; and
- (e) cancels their main benefit from the day the employment described in clause 7 commences; and
- (f) does not return to a main benefit or receives a student allowance for 182 days from the day the employment described in clause 7 commences.

13 Recovery of a grant

- (1) Where an applicant receives a grant under clause 11(1) and fails to comply with any of the conditions in clause 12, in respect of that grant, the whole of the grant will become recoverable and must be recovered from the applicant by MSD.
- (2) Despite clause 13(1), a grant will not become recoverable where MSD is satisfied that the applicant had a good and sufficient reason for not complying with a condition in clause 12(a) to (d) and (f).

14 Transitional provisions

MSD must not make a grant to an applicant if they or their spouse or partner (if any) have already received a grant under the now revoked clauses 6A(a)(iii) or (iv) of the Schedule of the Employment Work and Readiness Assistance Programme within the previous 52-weeks.

Schedule 1

Cls 4, 11(1), 11(2), 11(3), 12(1)(c)

Amount payable to assist with the cost of relocating an eligible applicant and (if applicable) their immediate family

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Amount payable for relocating by land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) \$250 to a single applicant (b) \$350 to an applicant in a relationship (c) \$500 to an applicant with 1 or more dependent children |
| 2 | Amount payable for relocating by air or sea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) \$500 to a single applicant (b) \$1,000 to an applicant in a relationship (c) \$1,500 to an applicant with 1 or more dependent children |

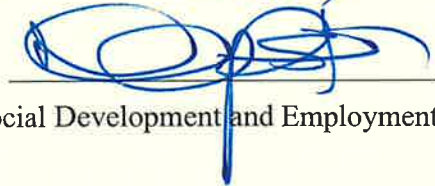
Schedule 2

Cls 4, 11(1), 11(2), 11(3), 12(1)(d)

Amount payable to assist with the cost of relocating possessions from the applicant's previous residence to their new residence

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Amount payable where an applicant is relocating to accommodation 299km or less away from their principal place of residence | (a) \$500 to a single applicant
(b) \$1,000 to an applicant in a relationship
(c) \$2,000 to an applicant with 1 or more dependent children |
| 2 | Amount payable where an applicant is relocating to accommodation between 300km – 499km away from their principal place of residence | (a) \$1,000 to a single applicant
(b) \$1,500 to an applicant in a relationship
(c) \$2,500 to an applicant with 1 or more dependent children |
| 3 | Amount payable where an applicant is relocating to accommodation 500km or more away from their principal place of residence. | (a) \$1,500 to a single applicant
(b) \$2,000 to an applicant in a relationship
(c) \$3,500 to an applicant with 1 or more dependent children |

At Cambridge this 16th day of February 2025



Minister of Social Development and Employment

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the programme but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This welfare programme, established under section 101(1) of the Social Security Act 2018, which comes into effect on 31 March 2025, provides for financial assistance to people of working age, receiving a main benefit, who are at risk of long-term benefit receipt and unable to secure suitable and sustainable work in their local area, by assisting them to relocate to take up an offer of suitable and sustainable employment.