

Appendix Three – Disability Support Services (DSS)

What is DSS?

DSS is an appropriation managed by the Disability Directorate in the Ministry of Health (MOH). It generally supports people for whom onset of disability is prior to age 65, with more than half of clients aged under 25. Around 43,300 people who are disabled due to a physical, sensory, or intellectual neurological or developmental condition, access ongoing supports funded by DSS and allocated through Needs Assessment and Service Coordination services (NASCs).

DSS also supports over 100,000 other people, for example, through equipment and modifications and provision of hearing aids. People with ‘age-related’ or injury-related conditions are supported through services provided or funded through other government agencies including DHBs (soon to be Health NZ) and ACC.

DSS has a total budget of \$1.83 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. In 2020/21, services were delivered through approximately 975 service providers under about 1,500 contracts.

Current funding arrangements for DSS

Seventy-five percent of DSS expenditure is based on claims under a fee-for-service model. Receipt, processing, and paying of these claims is a substantial task, currently undertaken by the MOH Sector Operations Team (90,000 – 100,000 claim items are processed each month). The other 25 percent of the expenditure is mostly paid for through bulk-funded or capacity contracts.

MOH currently funds disability support services for:

- 43,300 people with long-term supports which allows:
 - 8,000 people to have help with cleaning and laundry so they can remain in their own home for longer
 - 11,000 people to be supported with daily activities such as getting up in the morning and going to bed at night
 - 7,500 people to receive 24/7 support to live in their community
 - 2,000 people to access a clinical behaviour support service
 - 500 resident family members to be paid to provide some hands-on care to their disabled family member
 - around 7,000 disabled people manage their support through ‘individualised funding’ arrangements under which disabled people, through a host agency, manage the purchasing of support themselves.
 - 23,000 caregivers to be able to take a break from their caring responsibilities
 - 2,000 patients to access inpatient rehabilitation beds and outpatient rehabilitation services following a stroke (or other illness)
- 85,000 people to get the equipment and modification services they need to retain/achieve independence, including hearing and vision services
- 22,000 people to access the hearing aid funding and subsidy schemes

86 adults and children to receive cochlear implants each year.