MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

8 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request for information which was received by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) 25 June 2025. You requested information relating to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and Parkinson's Disease.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on all three of your requests set out separately below.

Response to request 1

> *Can you please write advising whether or not Parkinson's Disease is an eligible condition for disability support please; and*
>
> *Can you please forward a printed list of all conditions that are eligible for disabilities support, please*

The Ministry does not have a list of conditions that are eligible to receive disability support rather it is based on a client's individual circumstances. It is not an entitlement to receive any particular service. If a person wishes to access disability support services funded by Disability Support Services (DSS), they are required to first meet eligibility criteria and then undergo a needs assessment. If a person is not eligible for publicly funded services, they are liable for the full cost of the services they receive and will access these independently.

I am therefore refusing your above request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist.

However, I consider you will find information on the DSS eligibility to be helpful which is found on the DSS website. I have enclosed a copy of this information as **Appendix 1.**

Response to request 2-3

> *Can you please write advising what year did disability support services begin to respect the Disability Convention?*
>
> *Did the convention have effect starting in 2006 and when supports were managed by Ministry of Health and when NZ Govt ratified CRPD?*
>
> *Can you please write advising if Ministry of Social Development services were inclusive of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from the point it was ratified in 2006?*

New Zealand signed the UNCRPD in 2006, and ratified (agreed to be bound) in 2008. New Zealand played a significant leadership role in the development of the UNCRPD, particularly our commitment to the inclusion of disabled persons representative organisations in the creation of the Convention.

The New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS) and Disability Action Plans are the primary vehicles that guide the work of government agencies on disability issues, including our response to the UNCRPD since its ratification. This includes guiding the work of DSS, before and after transfer to the Ministry, and the Ministry's work to support disabled people. The NZDS was first developed in 2001 and last revised in 2016; a new NZDS is due in 2026. Whaikaha/Ministry of Disabled People provides disability system leadership across government and lead on development of the NZDS.

New Zealand's progress on implementation of the UNCRPD is regularly examined by the United Nations Committee (UN) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the UN Committee). Agencies, including the Ministry, are responsible for leading progress on aspects of the UNCRPD relevant to their portfolios. For example, New Zealand's examination in 2014 informed the most recent Disability Action Plan, which guided several key disability work programmes including the Ministry's Working Matters – Disability Employment Action Plan in 2021. In the examination in 2022, the UN made 63 observations which the government is working through a process to respond to those Observations.

The Health and Disability Commissioner and the Human Rights Commission have an independent role in monitoring the rights of disabled people, and they communicate regularly with the Ministry regarding their views and findings. This enables the Ministry to respond to any concerns raised.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Printed from: https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/disabled-people/assessment-and-funding/how-to-access-support

Printed on: 30 July 2025

How to access support

If you are disabled or care for someone who is disabled, you may be eligible for some level of support.

Check if you are eligible for Disability Support Services-funded support

There are eligibility criteria for Disability Support Services. The following information can help you understand what you would be entitled to and how to start the process.

Disability Support Services-funded disability support services are available to people who have a physical, intellectual or sensory disability (or a combination of these) which:

- is likely to continue for at least six months
- needs ongoing support to live independently, to the extent that ongoing support is required.

These services are mainly for people under the age of 65 years.

Disability Support Services will also fund disability support services for people with:

- some neurological conditions that result in permanent disabilities
- some developmental disabilities in children and young people, such as Autism
- physical, intellectual or sensory disability that co-exists with a health condition and/or injury.

The first place you need to go to is your local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) provider. They will be able to confirm if you meet eligibility criteria and some of them will provide you with a referral form. The process differs slightly from region to region however this first phone call is the start of the process.

Who else offers support?

If you are not eligible for Disability Support Service funding, there may be other agencies that can help.

Disability support services for people with mental health needs or age-related needs are generally funded by the Ministry of Health.

Disability support services for people with impairments such as paraplegia and brain injury caused by accident or injury are generally funded by ACC. Find out more about what they fund at ACC - What we cover.

Work and Income offers a range of income support assistance and health and disability related benefits. Find out what they fund on the Work and Income website.

We can also direct you to other support services which you can access yourself. These can be found on our Disability Information and Advisory Services and other helpful services section of our site.

Get a needs assessment

Needs assessments are the first step in the eligibility process and are available if you meet the Disability Support Service eligibility criteria. A needs assessment looks at your abilities, resources, goals and needs and is completed by a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) provider.

The role of a NASC is to work with disabled people and their family, whānau or carers to:

- identify strengths and support needs
- outline what disability support services are available
- determine eligibility for DSS funded support services
- maximise independence so that you can live the life you want
- make sure that the support and services allocated are fair and fit within the criteria.

Please note: If you live in Mid Central, Waikato or Christchurch, there are EGL sites near you. It's worth visiting the Enabling Good Lives Sites page of the National EGL website to understand a bit more about each of them. They operate slightly differently from each other and from a NASC in that they do not do needs assessments.

How to get started

The first thing to do is identify a Needs Assessment Service Coordination provider (NASC) local to you who can have an over the phone consultation with you regarding your potential eligibility. You can call them yourself or, another person or organisation can make the call for you, as long as they have your agreement. This could even be your GP if you are more comfortable with them making that first step for you.

Once the NASC has heard from you, they will review your eligibility for funded disability support services. They'll make an appointment with you and any family, whānau, aiga or carer you would like to have with you. Please note there is usually a waitlist for in person appointments.

If you don't meet the eligibility criteria for funded disability support services, then the NASC will work with you to find other services that may be able to assist.

- Find a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination provider near you to start the process.

Other helpful services

We have tried to provide a list of organisations to support you and provide a range of information and supports.

- Find other helpful services

Needs assessment services →

Index of page links

1. **Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) provider** - https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/disabled-people/assessment-and-funding/needs-assessment-services
2. **Ministry of Health external** - https://www.health.govt.nz/
3. **ACC - What we cover external** - https://www.acc.co.nz/im-injured/what-we-cover/
4. **Work and Income website external** - https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-related-benefits.html
5. **Disability Information and Advisory Services and other helpful services section** - https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/disabled-people/assessment-and-funding/helpful-health-social-and-disability-related-services
6. **Enabling Good Lives Sites external** - https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/enabling-good-lives-sites/
7. **Needs Assessment and Service Coordination provider near you** - https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/disabled-people/assessment-and-funding/needs-assessment-services

8. **Find other helpful services** - https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/disabled-people/assessment-and-funding/helpful-health-social-and-disability-related-services

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