

		<b>Funding</b>							
		<b>Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC)</b>			<b>Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ)</b>		<b>Ministry of Education (MOE)</b> For a full list of learning support services see: <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/quick-links/learning-support/">https://www.education.govt.nz/quick-links/learning-support/</a>		
		Individualised funding – personal cares	Individualised funding - Respite	Carer support	Child Disability allowance	Supported living payment (Carer)	Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service (IWS)	Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS)	Early support services
<b>What is it?</b>		An allocation of funding towards support moving around the house, getting changed, eating, showering. You may be considered to have difficulties in these areas even if they manage it by avoiding it.	An allocation of funding towards respite anyone who regularly provides care for your child. This is intended to give carers a break by bringing someone else in to provide the support on their behalf.	Carer support is a subsidy funded by Whaikaha to help the full time carer of a disabled person to take a break from their caring role. Carer support is for whānau with children 18 and under.	This is intended to pay for extra costs associated with a disability (e.g. counselling, medication, extra doctor's visits, special foods, etc.).	This is intended for people who cannot work more than 15 hours per week and will not be able to work for at least two years due to caring for a disabled person.	Ministry of Education programme for children who have highly complex behaviour, social, and/or learning needs, and who need support at home, at school, and in the community	Funding for children who have high needs in school	Support and early intervention from birth until transitioning to school.
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	Child is formally diagnosed with a disability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Child aged under 5								✓
	Child aged 5-14 years old						✓		
	Child has significant or complex needs						✓	✓	
	Child has additional needs								✓
	Child requires support at school, at home and in the community						✓		

	Requires a medical certificate				✓	✓			
	Unexpected to be able to work more than 15 hours per week for the next two years either because you are disabled or because you are caring full time for someone other than your partner, who is disabled.					✓			
	Able to provide evidence of disability related costs				✓				
	Falls under the income threshold				✓	✓			
	Carer is providing more than 4 hours unpaid care per day for a disabled person.			✓					
Navigating the process	Enabling Good Lives (EGL)	Leaders in the disability community developed the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) approach with the intent of shifting power and authority from government to disabled people and their families. EGL is a social movement in response to the oppression of disabled people.							
		Through Enabling Good Lives, disabled people and their whānau can choose to increase the choice and control they have in their lives and supports.							

		Being aware of the EGL principles can help you to advocate for yourself and your support needs.					
	<b>EGL principles</b>	Self determination					
		Beginning early					
		Person-centred					
		Ordinary life outcomes					
		Mainstream first					
		Mana-enhancing					
		Easy to use					
		Relationship building					
	<b>Find your local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC)</b>	Each region has a local NASC. You will need to find out which one covers your area. You can find the list of disability NASC here: <a href="https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/needs-assessment-services">https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/needs-assessment-services</a>					
	<b>Application</b>	Step one is referring and applying to be assessed. You can self-refer or be referred by someone else. This can usually be done online, depending on which NASC you come under. If your child has an autism diagnosis, they qualify to be assessed to determine their eligibility for funding.	You can apply online here: <a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/apply/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/apply/index.html</a>  You can also apply via hard copy by picking up the forms from your local WINZ office.	To access this, you will need a referral from your child's school, an RTLB, or a Learning Support staff member from the Ministry. More information including referral forms here: <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/intensive-wraparound-service-iws/">https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/intensive-wraparound-service-iws/</a>	ORS funding is based on needs rather than specific diagnosis. To access it, you will need to prove that your child struggles with one or more of: learning, hearing, vision, language use, or social communication; and/or has a physical disability. Full criteria here: <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/ors/criteria-for-ors/">https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/ors/criteria-for-ors/</a>	Parents can contact MOE directly or go through other professionals such as educators or health professionals  <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/early-intervention/#about">https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/early-intervention/#about</a>	

		Depending on your local NASC, sometimes the online form (referral and outcomes plan) is all you need. Other times they may want to have further conversation and assessment via phone call, email or an in-person meeting.	You will need to provide proof of costs	You will need to provide proof/a report of your diagnosis or the diagnosis of the person you are caring for.			
		As part of the assessment process, you will complete what is currently known as a living well plan or outcomes plan. This is a plan that outlines what a good life looks like for your child and your family and what support they need to achieve that.	You will also need to get your doctor to complete the Disability Certificate. They should have a copy of this at their office but you can also pick one up from WINZ or have them send one out to you.				
		Funding or support will then be granted or declined. You can reapply or seek further support to help communicate your need for supports if you disagree with the initial outcome, or if your needs change at any point.					
		<p>What makes a good life for your child? This might be in areas like school, friends, hobbies, mobility, health, food, exercise, sleep, and sensory issues.</p> <p>What is a good life is to you and your child, what barriers are getting in the way and what support is needed to achieve this?</p>					
<b>Know your rights</b>	When interacting with any disability service, you have the right to be treated fairly, with respect, and in a way that preserves your dignity and independence.						
	You have the right to be given all the information you need, in a way that you understand, and to make choices about your support.						
	<b>What this means is:</b>						
	You can say no						
	You can make a complaint						
	You can ask for a reassessment at any time						
	See: <a href="https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/know-your-rights/">https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/know-your-rights/</a>						
Easy Read versions of these rights are here: <a href="https://www.hdc.org.nz/disability/easy-read-resources/">https://www.hdc.org.nz/disability/easy-read-resources/</a>							

<b>Weighing up options and determining how to use funding and support</b>	More choice in how disabled people are supported	Less control over funding and how it is used	Be aware that the Disability allowance likely won't be enough to cover the full cost of what you might need, particularly if you need it for therapy or counselling. So you will need to carefully consider your priorities and where you want this money to go.				
	Instead of traditional home and community support services etc.						
	Use for support worker or any disability support service to make your life better	Use to contribute towards employing someone else to provide support/respite. This person must be over 16 years old and not live at the same address.					
	<a href="https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/types-of-funding/individualised-funding/">https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/types-of-funding/individualised-funding/</a>						
	Anything illegal						
Alcohol							

<b>What funding can't be used for</b>	Tobacco or related products					
	Personal income					
	Gambling					
	Anything that is not a cost related to your disability					
	Something that everyone has to pay for – a normal expense.					
<b>Purchasing rules</b>	It helps you live your life or makes your life better					
	It is a disability support					
	It is reasonable and cost effective					
	It is not subject to a limit or exclusion: Fits within your allocated funding, not funded elsewhere.					
	For more information: <a href="https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/types-of-funding/purchasing-guidelines/">https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/types-of-funding/purchasing-guidelines/</a>					
<b>Individualised funding hosts</b>	Manage supports through IF host organization					
	Help understand and manage IF					
	Administer payments to support services					
	Help manage responsibilities and whether it meets Purchasing Guidelines					
	Cost for IF hosts: there are costs associated with using an individualized funding host, this cost will come out of your funding allocation.					
For more information on IF and a list of hosts: <a href="https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/individualised-funding">https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/assessments-and-funding/individualised-funding</a>						
<b>Seeking support services: tips for talking to service providers</b>	Take a support person					
	Write down questions before you go.					
	Don't be afraid to insist on answers to questions					
	Take notes					
	You can always get a second opinion					
	Look up provider beforehand (Google, Facebook etc) Do they have a good understanding of autism? Can they support me in the way I need? For example, if you are looking for a psychologist, find out if the psychologists is autism friendly, have other people found them helpful? If you have multiple diagnosis it's important to remember which ones count as a disability and which ones do not.					
<b>Advocacy services</b>	Health and Disability Advocacy Service: <a href="https://advocacy.org.nz/">https://advocacy.org.nz/</a>					

Other supports				
Autism education	Community	Parent support	Therapy	Other organisations
Autism NZ education programmes (self-funded): <a href="https://autismnz.org.nz/programmes/?_programmes_category=family-whanau">https://autismnz.org.nz/programmes/?_programmes_category=family-whanau</a>	Oscar funding is available until 18 for before and after school care if the child is accessing CDA funding <a href="#">Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) funding - Work and Income</a>	Autism Connect ! <a href="#">Autism Connect - Autism NZ</a>	Explore specialist advice: Requires a NASC referral <a href="https://www.healthcarenz.co.nz/service/explore-specialist-advice/behaviour-support-services/">https://www.healthcarenz.co.nz/service/explore-specialist-advice/behaviour-support-services/</a>	Altogether Autism: <a href="https://www.altogetherautism.org.nz/">https://www.altogetherautism.org.nz/</a>
Incredible Years Autism - <a href="https://pb4l.tki.org.nz/Incredible-Years-Autism/The-Incredible-Years-Autism-for-caregivers">https://pb4l.tki.org.nz/Incredible-Years-Autism/The-Incredible-Years-Autism-for-caregivers</a> (MoE funded)	Sunflower lanyard – share may need help at shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces Buy here: <a href="https://hdsunflower.com/au/shop/sunflower-wearer.html">https://hdsunflower.com/au/shop/sunflower-wearer.html</a> or participating places will give you a free one to keep when you visit (major airports and Parliament)	Parent to parent <a href="#">Parent to Parent - Lifelong support for families across NZ (parent2parent.org.nz)</a>	Child development service (CDS) and autism developmental coordination support: Can refer to Allied Health supports such as Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Therapy. <a href="#">Child Development Services   Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People</a>	Autistic Self-Advocacy Network: <a href="https://asan-aunz.org/">https://asan-aunz.org/</a>
Autism parent education through Explore (government funded): <a href="https://explorewellbeing.org.nz/our-services/autism-support-services/">https://explorewellbeing.org.nz/our-services/autism-support-services/</a>		Autism NZ Outreach services: <a href="https://autismnz.org.nz/support-from-us/">https://autismnz.org.nz/support-from-us/</a>	Other therapies and supports may include parent and teacher training, AAC, play therapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy, and special skill or interest groups. Autism NZ outreach services can support in directing you to your local supports and services.	Community Connections group <a href="#">Community Connections – A community based disability service offering Supported Living and some Residential Services (ccslt.org.nz)</a>
				Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA): <a href="https://www.dpa.org.nz/">https://www.dpa.org.nz/</a>
				IHC and Idea services: <a href="https://www.idea.org.nz/">https://www.idea.org.nz/</a>
				Spectrum Care: <a href="https://www.spectrumcare.org.nz/">https://www.spectrumcare.org.nz/</a>
				CCS Disability Action: <a href="https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/">https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/</a>
				For an up to date and NZ relevant book, Chanelle’s “I am autistic” is an excellent way to increase your understanding of autism. It offers non- autistic people an opportunity to learn from someone who is autistic, and it helps autistic people make sense of their experiences.

Disclaimer: This isn’t an exhaustive list of services available and is accurate at the date of creation (July 2024). Services and eligibility criteria are subject to change.