

Accessing and Using NASC Services

A NASC (Needs Assessment and Service Coordination) is an organisation contracted by the Ministry of Social Development to work with you and your whānau to figure out what supports you and your child need, and to help you access those supports

1. Finding a NASC

There are NASC services all over New Zealand - head to www.nznasca.co.nz/regions to find your closest service

2. Referral

You'll need a written referral for a NASC assessment. You may be provided with one when you receive a diagnosis, or the person who completed the diagnosis may be able to make the referral for you. You can also request a referral from your local NASC and refer yourself or your child.

For a NASC referral to be accepted the individual must:

- Be under 65, or have a disability that they've have had since before they turned 65
- Have a disability that is likely to last for at least six months (e.g., a diagnosis of autism; diagnosis made in line with NZ best practice recommendations – see our Diagnosis Guide)
- Have a reduction of independent function (as a result of their disability) to the extent that ongoing support is required.

Your referral to a NASC must include specific details about your/your child's eligibility in the 'reason for referral' section. This should include the aspects of life you/they need support with, rather than just the name of the disability.

3. Needs assessment

If the referral is accepted the NASC will complete an assessment of your needs and which funded disability supports you may be eligible for.

There may be a wait time (of up to 6 months) before an assessment is completed; or before you can access funded disability supports if you are found to be eligible.

If you are not eligible for funded disability supports, the NASC will provide information on other supports, services, and resources.

4. Accessing support

If you (or your child) are eligible for disability funded support, the NASC will facilitate getting those supports started. Funded support can include information and advisory services; parent education courses; communication and behaviour support; respite care; home help (like housework); and other services.

If you are not eligible for funded supports, your NASC will help you find and access alternative services that may be able to help.

5. Ongoing support

Once you have support services in place, the NASC will be in contact yearly to make sure everything is working for you. You can also contact the NASC at any time if needs change.