

📄 Assistance

Employment Trial

Invalid's Benefit clients, with the agreement of their case manager can work 15 hours or more a week for an agreed period of up to 26 weeks, without losing their entitlement to Invalid's Benefit. At the end of the trial when the Invalid's Benefit will stop being paid to the worker, the worker may be paid Employment Transition Assistance on top of their wages so that their level of income doesn't fall. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

Transition to Work

Transition to Work assistance provides support to help people on benefits, students and low-income earners moving between jobs or entering the workforce. It can help pay for job search, interview and placement costs. Debt repayments to Work and Income can also be suspended for people entering full-time employment. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

📄 PATHS

The PATHS Service (Providing Access to Health Solutions) is a trial service jointly developed by the Ministry of Social Development and District Health Boards to help people who get the Sickness or Invalids Benefit to use health services, such as small operations, to help them to gain a job. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

📄 Civilian Amputee Assistance

This assistance is paid to ensure that people are not prevented from attending a Limb Centre to have an artificial limb fitted, adjusted or repaired because they are unable to meet the cost of travel and accommodation. It applies equally to amputees or people who were born without a limb. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

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📄 Further information and help

For more information on employment relations visit our website www.dol.govt.nz or phone 0800 20 90 20.

For more information on finding a job visit www.workandincome.govt.nz or phone Work and Income on 0800 559 009.



Employment Supports for People with Disabilities

📄 INFORMATION ABOUT THE TYPES OF SUPPORTS THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN USE TO FIND AND KEEP JOBS





Work and Income

Work and Income wants to help people into work. There are Work and Income offices throughout New Zealand. If you need help to find a job then you should contact your local Work and Income Office. You can freephone Work and Income on 0800 559 009 or freefax them to 0800 621 621. A list of all Work and Income Service Centres is available at www.workandincome.govt.nz

Workbridge

Workbridge is an employment agency for people with disabilities. Freephone on 0508-858-858, or free fax on 0800-080-715. This will put you in touch with your nearest centre. Workbridge also runs the Support Funds which can be used to support people with disabilities into employment, training or self-employment, by helping someone learn how to use public transport, for example, or by supplying a job coach or support person to help someone keep a job.

Supported Employment Agencies

There are Supported Employment agencies in all the big towns and cities of New Zealand. These agencies help people with disabilities to get a job and to keep it. You can find the agency closest to you by going to www.asenz.org.nz on the internet, or by phoning ASENZ on 06 342 3899 or fax them to 06 342 3899.

Mainstream

Mainstream is a two-year, subsidised employment programme for people with significant disabilities. The programme is provided by the State Services Commission and aims to help people in the programme get real, long-term jobs in government departments. To find out more email mainstream@ssc.govt.nz or phone 04 495 6726 or fax to 04 495 6686.

Business Enterprises (previously known as 'Sheltered Workshops')

Business Enterprises are organisations that specialise in creating and providing employment opportunities with support primarily for disabled people. If you are interested in working at a Business Enterprise, or other types of disability employment services then you can contact New Zealand Federation of Vocational and Support Services, Inc (VASS) <http://www.nzvass.org.nz/> or phone 04 384 2000, to find out about a Business Enterprise closest to you.

Minimum Wage Exemptions

The minimum wage is an hourly rate of pay set by the Government. To see the latest minimum rate visit www.dol.govt.nz. This is the lowest rate that employers can legally pay their employees unless a Labour Inspector issues a Minimum Wage Exemption. Labour Inspectors can only issue a Minimum Wage Exemption if the employee has a disability which significantly prevents them from earning the minimum wage. Labour Inspectors will not issue an exemption unless the worker has been fairly and thoroughly assessed and has agreed to the rate being offered. The exemptions are usually issued for 12 months and may be re assessed and re issued if the employee changes their job or employer. To find out more about Minimum Wage Exemptions and the processes involved please contact the Department of Labour on 0800 20 90 20.

Modification Grant

This can be used to make it easier for people with disabilities to get and keep a job by paying for changes to the place where they work. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

Disability Allowance

This allowance can help towards the costs you, your child or partner have because of a disability. It can help pay for regular visits to the doctor or hospital, medicines, extra heating, special food and travel to and from work. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

Income Exemption

The amount of income a person earns from their job can affect how much benefit they receive. Work and Income can grant an income exemption for a person with a severe disability so that they can keep more of their benefit payments while working. To find out more contact your local Work and Income Office.

Skills Investment Subsidy

The Skills Investment Subsidy is a subsidy paid to an employer for wages and/or training so people can get the skills they need to do the job. In general, the subsidy will be paid for a maximum of 52 weeks, but this can be extended for people with ill health or disabled people who may need a longer time before they can do all that the job requires. To find out more contact your local Work and Income office.

