



DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE

Equipment Funding

Eligibility

If you live in New Zealand, are a New Zealand resident, and have a long-term disability which is not covered by ACC, you may be able to get equipment through Whaikaha—Ministry of Disabled People. The equipment is provided at no charge, and is loaned to you for as long as you need it.

What Could I Get?

An Assessor might recommend equipment which can help with:

- Showering, going to the toilet, eating, cooking and household tasks, such as a shower stool, hoist or a raised toilet seat
- Walking, getting around, standing and posture, such as a walking frame or wheelchair. Sometimes wheelchairs can take a while to organise, particularly if you need to try out different ones or if the equipment comes from overseas.
- Speaking, understanding, writing and making sense of information, such as a communication board, equipment which speaks for you, and devices and software which help you use your computer.
- Hearing, such as listening devices, fax machines and visual/vibrating alarms. Hearing aids are funded separately by the Ministry of Health (see Hearing Aid Funding and Subsidy Fact Sheet).
- Vision, such as magnifiers, mobility canes, computer screen-reading software and, in some cases, glasses.

Some items are not available from Whaikaha funding. These include:

- Items costing less than \$50.00.
- Those for medical or health needs, incontinence or therapy.

If you need equipment for less than six months you may need to borrow it from your local Hospital or hire it.

Where To From Here?

You will need to talk to an Assessor. They will complete an assessment of your needs and look at ways to help you do your everyday tasks. With your help, the Assessor identifies the equipment you need to be safe and independent at home, to work or study, or to look after someone who depends on you.

In the Bay of Plenty area, Assessors are the Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists at Te Whatu Ora — Health New Zealand, Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty, your local Hospital. You need to get your GP to do a referral through to them.

See also: Lottery Individuals with Disabilities Grants Fact Sheet