



DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE

Vehicle Modifications

Eligibility

If you are a New Zealand resident living in New Zealand, and you have a long-term disability which isn't covered by ACC you may be able to get some funding assistance.

What Could I Get?

There is funding available for vehicle modifications and in a small number of cases, for purchase of a vehicle that will then be modified. The availability of funding for the purchase of a vehicle will depend on your financial situation and your reasons for needing such a vehicle.

- if you will be the driver of the vehicle, your disability needs and your driving ability or potential to learn to drive, will be assessed. Recommendations may include hand controls, seating, ramps or hoists and safe ways of transporting your wheelchair
- if you are caring for a child with disabilities who lives with you, their safety needs as a passenger will be assessed. This may include seating, safety restraints, ramps or hoists and safe ways of transporting wheelchairs

Where To From Here?

If you want funding for vehicle modifications, you will need to talk to an Occupational Therapist. They will:

- complete an assessment of your needs
- identify what vehicle modifications are necessary to support you to work or study, or to look after someone who depends on you
- let you know whether you are eligible for funding assistance from the Ministry of Health for vehicle modifications and/or vehicle purchase
- advise you of other sources of funding or what options you may be able to buy or modify yourself

The Occupational Therapist will send your application to Accessable or Enable New Zealand for processing and consideration. If your application is approved, modifications or purchasing will begin when the funding becomes available. This may be soon after your application is approved, or longer if your need is not as urgent as others'. In the Whakatane area you can contact an Occupational Therapist through Te Koru Rehabilitation at Whakatane Hospital. You can refer yourself by calling 07 306 0788.

See also: Lottery Individuals with Disabilities Grants Fact Sheet