Changes to
Funded Family Care funded by
Disability Support Services

Starting from April 2020
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What is this booklet about?

The Ministry of Health is making changes to Funded Family Care.

This is an Easy Read booklet about the changes to the Funded Family Care program funded by Disability Support Services.

Disability Support Services is part of the Ministry of Health.
This is a long booklet.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:

• read it a few pages at a time
• have someone to assist you to understand it.

There is also an Easy Read booklet about the changes to the **Funded Family Care** program funded by **District Health Boards**.

You can find this booklet on the Ministry of Health website:

What is Funded Family Care funded by Disability Support Service?

Funded Family Care funded by Disability Support Services is for disabled people with high support needs.

Funded Family Care is support that some disabled people get so that family can care for them at home.

This means your family could get paid to help with your:

- personal care
- household tasks.
Personal care means having support with things like:

- eating and drinking
- getting dressed and undressed
- getting up in the morning and getting ready for bed
- having a shower or bath
- going to the toilet
- getting around your home.

Household tasks are things like:

- making meals
- washing and drying clothes
- cleaning your home.
At the moment to get this support you need to:

- be 18 years old or older
- live at home
- have high or very high support needs.

At the moment you can get this support if your family member:

- lives with you
- is over 18 years of age
- provides you with care.

Some of these things will be changing.
The people you can pay as your family carer are:

- your parent or parents
- other family / whānau members that live with you.

The person who is paid by Funded Family Care is called a **funded family carer**.
What people have told the Ministry of Health about Funded Family Care

In 2018 and 2019 people told the Ministry of Health what Funded Family Care has been like for them.

People told us that:

- they wanted more choice about how Funded Family Care can work for them
- husbands and wives and partners should be able to be funded family carers
- all funded family carers should get paid fairly.
People also told the Ministry of Health that:

- 40 hours of paid care was sometimes not enough for people who need support all the time.

- there should not have to be employer type relationships between the funded family carer and disabled person.

An employer is a person or business who pays people for the work they do.
The Ministry of Health is now making changes to Funded Family Care to make it fairer for:

- family carers
- disabled people being cared for.

There are 6 main changes being made to Funded Family Care funded by Disability Support Services.
1. Funded family carers to get paid more money

At the moment funded family carers who are funded by the Disability Support Services get paid $17.70 for every hour they work.

From April 2020 funded family carers paid by the Ministry of Health will be paid between $20.50 to $25.50 for every hour that they work.

How much a funded family carer gets paid will be based on:

- how long a person has worked
- their qualifications.
Qualification means a person having skills that makes them good at their job.

The more qualified your funded family carer is the more they may get paid.

There are no plans to back-date the new pay for people who already get Funded Family Care.

Back-date means paying more for work that has already been paid in the past.
A disabled person may have more than 1 funded family carer doing their Funded Family Care hours.

The most amount of hours each funded family carer can work is still up to **40 hours** per week.

If a funded family carer wants to work more than 40 hours of care per week the **exceptions process** is still in place.

You can find out more about the exceptions process from your **Needs Assessment and Service Coordination** service.
Needs Assessment and Service Coordination services are also called NASCs.

NASCs are services that work with:

- disabled people
- their family / whānau
- their carers.
NASCs work with you to:

- find out what things you are good at
- find out what things you need support with
- give you information about what support services there are
- tell you about what funded support services you may be able to use.

There is more information about NASC services on page 22 of this booklet.
2. More choices on how to use Funded Family Care

For people who get their Funded Family Care from Disability Support Services:

- there will be 2 choices of how to use Funded Family Care

- the 2 choices will start from April 2020.
The **first choice** is having a **Home and Community Support Service** look after their Funded Family Care support.

**Home and Community Support Services** are businesses that give direct support to disabled people.

The Home and Community Support service would be your funded family carer’s **employer**.

An **employer** is a person or business who pays people for the work they do.
The Home and Community Support Service would:

- pay your family member to be your funded family carer

- work together with you to plan how your support would happen

- organise any **training** that your funded family carer might need.

**Training** is about learning new things that would assist with your care.
The second choice for Disability Support Services Funded Family Care is to set it up like Individualised Funding.

**Individualised Funding** is when disabled people use their funding to set up their own support.

This would mean:

- you can be the employer of your funded family carer

- you can use a service to do the things that employers have to do like:
  - paying funded family carers for the work they have done
  - having agreements about the work they will do.
For both these 2 choices your Needs Assessment and Service Coordination service will work with you and your family / whānau to:

- choose the best way to get your Funded Family Care support
- get the support you need to get it set up
- make the changes by **April 2022**.

The contact details for the NASCs can found on pages 35 and 36 of this booklet.
3. The eligibility criteria to use Funded Family Care will be easier

Eligibility criteria means a list of things that says who can get this service.

From April 2020 the eligibility criteria will change so that it is easier to use Funded Family Care from Disability Support Services.

This means disabled people may be able to use Funded Family Care if they have been assessed by NASC as having:

- high disability support needs
- very high disability support needs.
Another important thing to know is that funded family carers can have another paid job as well as their work with Funded Family Care.

If the funded family carer does have another paid job they:

- need to make sure they can still do the paid Funded Family Care that is needed by their disabled family member

- may need to pay secondary tax.

Everyone who works pays taxes or money to the Government.

**Secondary tax** is for people who:

- have more than 1 job

- get a benefit from Work and Income.
Your funded family carer can find out more about secondary tax on the Department of Inland Revenue’s website:

4. **Funded family carers can be 16 years old or older.**

At the moment funded family carers have to be 18 years old or older.

This will change to being **16 years old or older**.

For Funded Family Care funded by Disability Support Services this will start from **April 2020**.

This means young carers will have the same chances to earn money as other people the same age as them.
These young family members will get support to choose if they want to become a paid family carer for their disabled family member.

For young funded family carers it is important that:

- they get support to have their own life goals

- their **wellbeing** is looked after.

**Wellbeing** means things like:

- how we feel about ourselves

- looking after our bodies with good food and exercise

- getting support when we are feeling sad or worried.
5. Changes to who can be a funded family carer

For Funded Family Care funded by Disability Support Services these people can be your funded family carer:

- your parent or parents
- other family / whānau members that live with you
- your partner that lives with you
- your husband or wife.

This will start from April 2020.

The Health and Disability Act is a law that the Government made in the year 2 thousand.

You write it like this: 2000.

Laws are rules written by the government.

Part 4A is the part of Health and Disability Act which is about Family care policies.

Family care policies are rules about who can and cannot be paid as carers for their disabled family members.
Part 4A makes it hard for some family members like husband or wives or partners to:

- be paid as carers for their disabled family member
- tell the Human Rights Commission that they think they are not being treated fairly.

The Human Rights Commission looks into complaints about discrimination.

A complaint is when you:

- are not happy about something
- tell someone why you are not happy.
**Discrimination** means treating people in an unfair way because of things like their:

- age
- gender – being male, female or another gender
- marital status – being married or not married
- disability
- culture - way of life for different groups of people.
Taking away Part 4A from the Health and Disability Act will:

- mean that disabled people and their families / whanau will no longer be stopped from speaking up about this kind of discrimination

- happen by the end of 2020.
Starting from **April 2020** for people who get their Funded Family Care from Disability Support Services:

- funded family carers will get more pay for the work they do
- people will have 2 choices about the way their Funded Family Care is set up
- the changes to the eligibility criteria will start
- funded family carers can be 16 years old or older
- there will be more choice about who can be a funded family carer.
By **April 2022** all of the people who already get Funded Family Care will have moved to 1 of the 2 choices of how to set up their Funded Family Care.

The Ministry of Health will keep working with stakeholders to make sure that Funded Family Care is going well for everyone in New Zealand who has it.

**Stakeholders** are:

- disabled people
- family / whānau
- home and Community Support services
- other disability support services.
If you have more questions

For more information about the changes you can send an email to the Ministry of Health at:

infoFFC@health.govt.nz

For more information about whether you can use Funded Family Care contact your local NASC service.

The contact details of all the NASC services are available from the Ministry of Health website:

The Disability Information Centre can also tell you who your local NASC service is.

To contact the Disability Information Centre:

**Phone:** 0800 693 342
This information has been translated into Easy Read by the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

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