

Disability Support Services



Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) Organisations

March 2015

What is a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination Organisation?

NASC organisations are contracted by Disability Support Services, Ministry of Health to work out whether a disabled person is eligible for government-funded disability support services. They work with disabled people and their family, whānau, aiga or carers, to identify their strengths and support needs. The NASC then outlines what supports and services are available and which of these are funded by the Ministry of Health. NASCs allocate Ministry of Health-funded disability support services and help with accessing other supports. These services are then delivered by the respective service providers.

What are NASCs' key roles and responsibilities?

The contract Disability Support Services has with NASCs requires three things:

1. facilitated needs assessment
2. service coordination
3. resource allocation within a fixed budget.

What is a needs assessment?

The needs assessment helps to work out what the person's abilities, resources, goals and needs are and then helps them to identify which of these is the most important. NASCs carry out the needs assessment with the disabled person.

Who is eligible for a needs assessment?

Needs assessment is available for people who meet the Disability Support Services' definition of disability. The Disability Support Services Group at the Ministry of Health funds services for people with a physical, intellectual and/or sensory impairment or disability that is likely to continue for a minimum of six months and result in a reduction of independent function to the extent that ongoing support is required. In addition a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder may also be eligible for a needs assessment. These are usually for people under the age of 65. Disability support services for people with mental health needs or age-related needs are generally funded by District Health Boards.

How do I get a needs assessment?

In most cases you need a written referral before a needs assessment can take place. NASCs have their own referral forms, which they will send out to you on request. You can refer yourself or any other person or organisation can make the referral for you as long as they have your agreement. The NASC reviews your referral for eligibility for Ministry of Health-funded disability support services and will then make an appointment to see you with any family, whānau, aiga or carer you would like to have with you. If you do not meet the eligibility requirements for Ministry of Health-funded disability support services then the NASC will help you to find other services that may be able to help.

What is service coordination?

Service coordination helps identify available support options to meet the needs and goals of the disabled person and, where appropriate, their family, whānau, aiga and carers as documented during the Needs Assessment process. Options may include both funded disability support services and other natural supports available to the person in their community.

Resource management

The NASC must ensure that the supports and services allocated to you are fair and fit within the fixed disability support services budget.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact your local NASC. Contact details can be found online at www.health.govt.nz/disability under 'contact details'. Your doctor or health professional should also be able to refer you to your local NASC.

A disability information service will also be able to help you find your local NASC and give you information. The New Zealand Federation of Disability Information Centres (NZFDIC) has several member organisations throughout New Zealand. You can contact them on free phone 0800 NZFDIC (0800 693 342) or online at www.nzfdic.org.nz under members.

Did you know?

The Ministry of Health has factsheets and information pamphlets that tell you about the disability support services it funds.

You can find these online at www.health.govt.nz/disability, by emailing disability@moh.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DSD MOH (0800 373 664), choose option 1.

