

Supported Living

Disability Support Services

March 2015
HP5295

Supported Living is a service that helps disabled people to live independently by providing support in those areas of their life where help is needed. You will identify the areas where you need help and these are written in a Personal Plan. Areas where support may be needed could include using community facilities, shopping, budgeting or cooking, and help when dealing with agencies such as WINZ or your bank. A support worker will work with you, usually at your home, but support will be provided at times and places that are agreed. This support is provided by an organisation that is contracted to Disability Support Services at the Ministry of Health.

Supported Living cannot be used to support you with personal care, household management, rehabilitation or vocational services.

Who can get Supported Living?

Anyone aged 17 or older who is assessed as meeting the Ministry of Health's Disability Support Services eligibility criteria.

How do I access Supported Living?

Through a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) organisation – an assessment is completed to check you are eligible and that Supported Living is the right service for you. The NASC will then provide information about the Supported Living providers in your area and you can choose who you would like to provide this service. You may wish to gather further information about the providers before making your choice.

Do I have to pay?

No, Supported Living is funded by the Government through the Ministry of Health, and is not means tested in any way.

What happens with my income?

Your income, wherever it comes from, goes to a bank account of your choice and you retain full control over your financial affairs. However, it may be identified that you require budgeting support and, if this is the case, then the person supporting you will work alongside you in managing this.

What happens when I start with Supported Living?

You will work with the provider you have chosen to prepare a Personal Plan – this will describe what you want to achieve through being supported, and will be written so that you clearly understand what will be happening. You will sign the Plan to show that you agree with it. The provider will then prepare a proposal for the NASC about how they plan to support you, including how often, for how long, when and where. The proposal is sent to the NASC and a Support Package is agreed – you will sign this as well to show that you agree with the support that will be provided. The provider will generally provide an identified staff member to meet you at agreed times to work on the goals that are written in your Plan.

How long can I get Supported Living for?

Supported Living is a support service that is for an agreed period of time to ensure that your goals are achieved. How long you are able to use Supported Living depends on a number of things – how long you are assessed as needing support, how long it takes to achieve your goals, and if you have enough support from the other people around you to keep living independently.

How do I find out more?

You can contact your local NASC which can be found online at www.health.govt.nz under contact details. Your doctor should also be able to refer you to your local NASC.

You can also contact your local Disability Information Advisory Service (look in the phone book under 'D'), or online at www.health.govt.nz and search for Disability Information Advisory Service.

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, by emailing disability@moh.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DSD MOH (0800 373 664), choose option 1.



www.health.govt.nz