

Unemployment Benefit

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- Available for and actively seeking work
- 18 or older (lower rate until 25)

Sickness Benefit

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- Available for and actively seeking work but unable to work due to illness
- 18 or older (lower rate until 25)

Independent Youth Benefit

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- Available for and actively seeking work, or studying, or sick
- 16 or 17 years of age

Invalid's Benefit

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- Unable to work more than 15 hours per week regularly in open employment for at least two years
- 16 or older

DPB Sole Parent

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- Primary caregiver for at least one dependent child
- 18 or older

DPB Widow/Woman Alone

- 2 years continuous residence since PR
- A woman who has lost the support of her partner or ceased to care for a dependent relative since reaching 50

DPB Care of the Sick or Infirm

- 2 Years continuous residence since PR
- Caring for a sick relative (not spouse) who would otherwise require full time care at a hospital level
- 16 or older

Superannuation

- 65 years of age
- Ordinarily Resident in NZ on date of application
- Resident and present for 10 years since age of 20
- And resident and present for 5 years since age of 50

Emergency Benefit

- There are emergency forms of all the benefits able to be paid
- These are paid when the applicant does not qualify for a main benefit this is often due to residency or age

Orphan's or Unsupported Child Benefit

- Paid to caregiver of child not able to be supported by natural parents
- Not available to adoptive parents
- Either child or caregiver resident and present in NZ (caregiver for 12 months)
- Situation likely to continue for at least a year
- No penalty for not applying for Child Support
- Not tested on caregivers income

Disability Allowance

- Reimbursement for costs arising directly from a person's ongoing health condition
- Treatments must be supervised and considered to be of therapeutic value by patients registered health professional
- Verification of costs needed
- Available to people not on a main benefit
- No Asset test

Accommodation Supplement

- Assistance towards accommodation costs over a threshold and up to a maximum which is different in different parts of NZ
- Not available for HNZ clients
- Payable on rent
- Payable on 62% of board costs
- Payable on home ownership costs including mortgage rates and maintenance
- Available to people not on main Benefit

Child Disability Allowance

- An allowance paid to the caregiver of a severely disabled child
- Not income or asset tested
- Child must be certified by Dr as needing constant care and attention for a period exceeding 12 months

Temporary Additional Support

- Third Tier Hardship assistance
- Paid on allowable costs to a maximum set in regulations
- No discretion
- Maximum TAS is 30% of main benefit
- May be entitled to a disability exemption

Review of Decision

- Must be in writing
- Within 3 months of being notified of the decision
- First internal review
- Review hearing with panel of three
- Then appeal to Social Security Appeal Authority

Regional Health and Disability Advisors

- Positions created in 2007
- Help Case managers to understand health conditions and thus better engage with clients
- Do not meet client
- Often seek “clarity” with a phone conversation with medical practice

W&I has a responsibility too:

- Investigate all claims for assistance
- Take an application and process it
- Work in a timely way
- Be culturally sensitive
- Treat clients with respect

Wellington People's Centre

- Benefit Fact File
- Assistance by email brs@wpc.net.nz
- Access W&I policy
<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/manuals-and-procedures/>
- Help with reviews and appeals