

Purchasing Rules changes and update on Equipment and Modification Services



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About this document



This Easy Read document is from **Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People**.



In this Easy Read document:

- Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People is called **Whaikaha**
- when you see the words **we / us** it means Whaikaha
- **disability community** means:
 - disabled people
 - tāngata whaikaha Māori
 - whānau / family
 - carers.





This Easy Read document is about our:

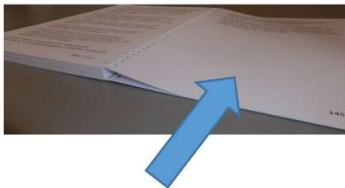


1. changes to the **Purchasing Rules** for **disability support funding**
2. Update on **Equipment and Modification Services**.



Purchasing rules say how people can use their disability support funding.

Purchase means to buy something.



Disability support funding is money used to purchase such as:

- Individualised Funding
- Enhanced Individualised Funding
- Choice in Community Living
- Personal Budgets
- Carer Support.

We will look more at what **Equipment and Modification Services** are on **pages 10 to 12.**

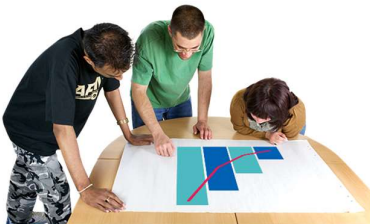
The changes started from **18 March 2024.**

Why have the rules changed?



Whaikaha uses disability funding to support about:

- 50 thousand people using flexible disability support funding
- 100 thousand people using Equipment and Modification Services.



More people have been asking for disability funding / support.



Some of the funding / support has not been used to support disabled people themselves.



Changing the rules was needed to make sure that funding is being spent where it is needed most.



The rule changes will be in place until we have talked to the disability community.

The rule changes are needed so that we can:



- work with the disability community
- work out some rules for using the funding going forward.

We know that for the disability community these rule changes have been:



- concerning / upsetting
- difficult / hard to understand.

Changes to the Purchasing Rules



Purchasing Rules say what people can buy with their disability support funding.



Changes to the Purchasing Rules do not mean less funding / money given to:

- disabled people
- carers.



There is Easy Read information about the Purchasing Guidelines at this website link:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/purchasingrules



What happens if you have already made a purchase from your funding that is no longer allowed under the new Purchasing Rules?



We know some people may have purchased something from their funding **before** 18 March 2024 that is no longer allowed with the new Purchasing Rules.



You may be able to purchase things that fit the old purchasing rules up until:

Friday 29 March 2024.



You need to send in your claim forms for the cost of these purchases by:

Friday 12 April 2024.



It will be helpful to include as much information as possible such as something showing the date of:

- purchase
- **quote.**



A **quote** is when someone tells you how much something will cost before you agree to buy it.

Equipment and Modification Services



Equipment and Modification

Services assist disabled people to live as:

- **independently** as possible
- safely as possible.



Independent means being able to do things for yourself.

Equipment and Modification Services are also called **EMS**.



Equipment can be things for disabled people like:

- wheelchairs
- standing frames made for a person
- seating systems made for a person
- adjustable beds
- communication devices
- housing **modifications** / changes
- vehicle / car modifications.

Modification means to make changes to something so it works best for the person who is using it.



As part of looking at how EMS works we are working with:

- EMS assessors

- allied health teams like:
 - physiotherapists

 - occupational therapists.



EMS assessors / allied health teams look at what equipment or modifications people need.



We want to make sure that the people who have the most need for EMS support get it first.

Travel



What travel cannot be funded using disability support funding?



The new purchasing rules say that disability support funding cannot be used for **domestic travel**.



Domestic travel means to travel to:

- different parts of New Zealand
- different towns or cities in New Zealand.



Travel to / from school is funded by
**Specialised School Transport
Assistance.**



**Specialised School Transport
Assistance** is a Ministry of Education
transport service.

It is also called **SESTA.**



SESTA assists children and young
people who:

- cannot travel safely to school by
themselves

and / or

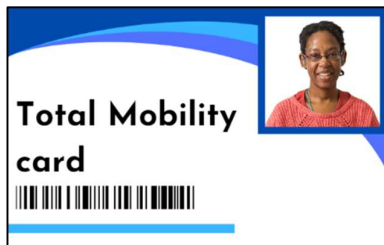
- have mobility needs which stop
them from being able to travel
independently to school.





You can find more information about SESTA at:

<https://tinyurl.com/pndnhptx>



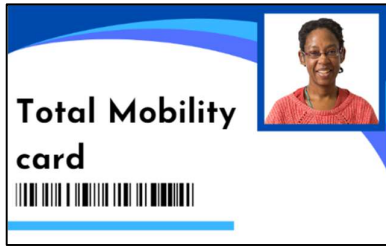
A disabled person travelling around their local area may be able to use the **Total Mobility Scheme**.



The **Total Mobility Scheme** is for disabled people who:

- cannot safely travel on public transport like buses or trains
- cannot get to where the public transport starts or ends because of their disability.





People who use Total Mobility get **discounts** on **Total Mobility services**.



A **discount** means you do not have to pay as much money.



Total Mobility services are things like:

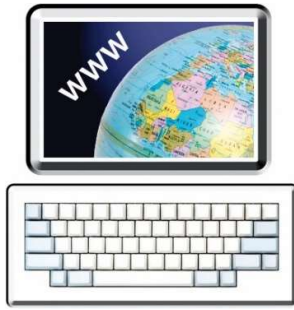
- taxis
- community vans
- companion driving services.



The rest of the cost of Total Mobility services is paid by:



- the New Zealand Transport Authority which is part of the Government
- local councils.

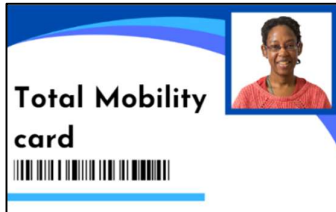


You can find more information about
the Total Mobility Scheme at

<https://tinyurl.com/3pbt778u>



What travel can be funded using disability support funding?



SESTA / Total Mobility Scheme should be used before thinking about using disability support funding to pay for domestic travel.



Disability support funding may be able to be used when the cost of travel is part of providing support to a disabled person.



For example:

The cost to a support worker when they take a disabled person to:

- the supermarket
- take part in activities outside the home.



Disability support funding may also be able to be used to pay for **In Between Travel**.



In Between Travel is when support workers who work for the same employer get paid for the:

- time taken to travel from 1 **client** to another
- travel costs of travelling from 1 client to another.



Client means the disabled person getting support from the support worker.



Most of the time Individualised Funding does not cover In Between Travel costs.



Talk to your **host** if you have questions about how to use your disability support funding under the purchasing rules.

A **host** is a person / agency who assists disabled people / carers to spend their disability support funding.

Where to find more information



You can find more information about the new purchasing rules at this website:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/purchasingrules



This website link above also has:

- examples / ways of how you can use disability support funding
- an Easy Read document called:



Purchasing Guidance: How to spend your disability support funding



You can find our answers to
Frequently Asked Questions / FAQs
at this website:

www.whaikaha.govt.nz/Q-As-PG-EMS



The FAQs are **not** available in Easy
Read.

You can find more information about:



- Equipment and Modification
Services at this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/yeyn3ktb>

- Carer Support at this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/29n5whs6>



The information on these websites is
not in Easy Read.

How to contact us



You can get in touch with us:



- by **email** at:

contact@whaikaha.govt.nz



- by **phone** on:

0800 566 601



- by **text** on:

4206



You can call us on the phone from 8 am in the morning to 5 pm in the evening on:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Thursday
- Friday.

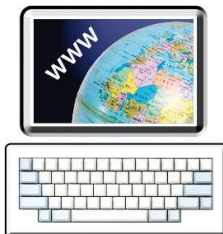


On Wednesdays you can call us from 9.30 am in the morning to 5 pm in the evening.



If you find it hard to use the phone
the **New Zealand Relay** service is for
people who are:

- Deaf / hard of hearing
- deafblind
- speech impaired / find it hard to talk.



You can find out more about the New
Zealand Relay service at:

www.nzrelay.co.nz

This information was written by
Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled
People.



It has been translated into Easy Read
by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai
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Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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