

Special Needs Grants (Dental Treatment) Amendment Programme 2022

This instrument is made under section 101 of the Social Security Act 2018 by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

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Instrument

1 Title

This instrument is the Special Needs Grants (Dental Treatment) Amendment Programme 2022.

2 Commencement

This instrument comes into force on 1 December 2022.

3 Principal programme

This instrument amends the Special Needs Grants Programme (as established and approved on 18 December 1998).¹

4 Clause 3 amended (Interpretation)

- (1) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** in paragraph (c) replace “District Health Board” with “Health New Zealand”.
- (2) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** revoke paragraph (d).
- (3) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** in paragraph (da) replace “person providing services under a Crown funding agreement under section 10 of that Act” with “person or provider providing services funded in accordance with the New Zealand Health Plan under section 50 of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022”.

¹ New Zealand Gazette, 28 January 1999, No 8 Page 202.

- (4) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** in paragraph (f) delete “or”.
- (5) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** in paragraph (g) replace “.” with “; or”.
- (6) In clause 3.1, definition of **Health Agency** after paragraph (g) insert “(h) the Māori Health Authority.”.

5 Clause 9 amended (Restriction on Payments)

In clause 9.7 replace “clauses 13.2” with “clause 11.9 or clauses 13.3”.

6 Clause 13.2 revoked (Emergency Dental Treatment)

Revoke clause 13.2.

7 New Clause 11.9 inserted (Dental Treatment)

After clause 11.8, insert:

11.9 Dental Treatment

11.9.1 MSD may make a grant of not more than \$1000 towards the costs of immediate and essential dental treatment if the treatment is provided –

(a) for a fee by a Health Agency; or

(b) by a dentist.

11.9.2 Grants under clause 11.9.1 may be made in respect of each member of an immediate family.

11.9.3 MSD may make more than one Grant under clause 11.9.1 in a 52 Week Period but unless MSD considers there are exceptional circumstances, the total of the grants must not exceed \$1000.

11.9.4 A grant under Clause 11.9.1 must not be made in respect of:

(a) regular dental check-ups;

(b) cosmetic treatments;

(c) teeth cleaning, scaling and polishing, unless this treatment is required because of a gum infection;

(d) cast restorations;

(e) orthodontic treatment;

(f) molar root canal treatment, unless exceptional circumstances exist; or

(g) dentures.

Dated at this day of 2022

Minister for Social Development and Employment

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the instrument, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This instrument, which comes into force on 1 December 2022, amends the Special Needs Grants Programme established and approved under section 124(1)(d) of the Social Security Act 1964 and saved by clause 21 of schedule 1 of the Social Security Act 2018 as if it was a special assistance programme under section 101.

It removes the requirement for immediate and essential dental treatment to have arisen from an emergency situation. The maximum grant limit for Special Needs Grants for dental treatment is increased from \$300 to \$1000 and eligible applicants can receive more than one Special Needs Grant per 52 -week period so long as the total of those grants does not exceed \$1000 unless exceptional circumstances exist. It also updates the definition of Health Agency.