



18 July 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2024, requesting information about the Supported Living Payment.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Supported Living Payment (SLP) can be paid to a person who is providing full time care and attention at home to someone who would otherwise require:

- hospital care
- rest home care
- residential disability care
- extended care or
- care of an equivalent kind

The person requiring care may receive funding from another agency such as Whaikaha to employ someone to provide care. In these situations, any wages paid to the person providing care are charged as income against their SLP. This includes situations where the person requiring care is a child and their parent, caregiver or agent receives funding on their behalf.

Income charging for SLP is based on the amount earned rather than the number of hours the person works. Income is charged as follows:

- income up to \$160 gross per week does not reduce the rate of benefit
- income between \$160 and \$250 gross per week reduces the rate of SLP by 30 cents for every dollar earned
- income over \$250 reduces the rate of SLP by 70 cents for every dollar earned until the benefit is reduced to nil

Further information about SLP carers and income charging that you may find helpful can be found at the following links on the Ministry's website 'Map':

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/carers-receiving-other-income-01.html

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/supported-living-payment/charging-income-01.html

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/main-benefits-cut-out-points/supported-living-payment-cut-out-points-current.html

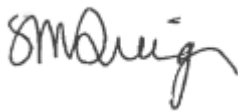
Note that there are no guidelines specifically about eligibility and income charging for carers of Needs Assessment Service Coordination (NASC) assessed very high needs disabled children as this does not have an impact on eligibility or how income is charged.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services