

The following article is an excerpt from the booklet 'Cystic Fibrosis Parent Guide' published by the Cystic Fibrosis Association of New Zealand. It was first published in 1996 and was revised and reprinted in 2005.

Assistance Available

WINZ (Work and Income NZ) makes available a variety of allowances to children and persons with physical disabilities and chronic illnesses. Talking with your doctor, nurse, social worker, WINZ case worker or the Cystic Fibrosis Association is an opportunity to find out more about what is available. The nature and amount of allowances are constantly changing.

Assistance available from WINZ

Child Disability Allowance

The allowance is available for all children aged 0-16 years who have a serious disability or chronic illness and who require constant care and attention over a long period. It is designed to cover those extra expenses incurred due to the medical condition. The child receives their own Community Services Card which covers out-patient clinic visits and discounts the cost of GP visits and prescription charges.

Disability Allowance

This allowance is for reimbursement of medical expenses, up to a maximum amount. It is for low income families or people on a benefit and is income-tested. It is designed to cover costs over and above what is considered "usual" e.g. dietary supplements, electricity, St Johns membership etc as well as standard medical-related costs appropriate to the condition. It is reviewed annually and receipts need to be produced.

Invalids Benefit

This benefit is an entitlement for adults who are unable to regularly work 15 hours or more a week due to sickness, injury or disability. They must be over 16 years of age and have left school. It is an income for the person in their own right and as such means they may be eligible for other allowances, dependent on income e.g. Disability Allowance and Accommodation Supplement. They will also receive a Community Services Card.

Training and Tertiary Allowances

Other allowances such as the Training Incentive Allowance (for people 18 years and over), need to be discussed with a case worker at WINZ.

Assistance available through Health Authorities

Assistance through local health authorities is constantly changing. For current information, contact your local health authority or hospital social worker.

Community Services Card

This card gives holders access to lower prescription and doctor's charges along with reduced rates for some other services.

High User Health Cards (Applies for one year only)

These are available through GPs after a certain number of visits.

Prescription Subsidy Cards (Applies for one year only)

These are available through pharmacies after a certain number of prescriptions have been filled.

Emotional Support and Assistance

Emotional support is available through various groups and health professionals. They can be contacted through your doctor, nurse, social worker or local branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Association.