



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
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Covid and Work: How MSD can support

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Dr Cathy Stephenson
GP and Principal Health
Advisor, MSD



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- Overview of MSD's support options
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Health, work and “long covid”

- NZ is likely to see significant and increasing numbers of people with “long covid”
- The effects can last for years, impacting on productivity at an individual and national level
- Long covid is likely to target those who are already vulnerable and unable to work full-time, impacting further on wellbeing, health and quality of life
- Evidence shows us that being out of work has profound negative effects on health and well-being, not just for the individual; these effects are greater if there are prolonged periods out of work
- US Study by Brehon et al indicates that the sooner someone can get workplace modifications (eg reduced hours) and be engaged in rehabilitation, the more likely they are to return to work



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MSD's main supports and benefits

JSS-HCID

Job Seeker Support with Health Condition, Injury or Disability (or medical deferral)

If a client has a short-term (ie expected to be <2 years duration) health condition or injury that means they must reduce their hours or stop working for a period or time, they can get a medical certificate from their doctor exempting them from full-time work obligations.

The amount of financial support provided depends on how much work they are able to do, and who else in the household is earning.

Study by Brehon et al shows that the sooner workplace modifications and rehab are in place, the more likely someone is to return to work





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Supported Living Payment

For those who are:

Over 16 years old

Not able to work more than 15 hours per week because they are:

Permanently (ie expected > 2 years) and severely restricted in their capacity for work because of a health condition, injury or disability, or

Totally blind

Must provide a work capacity medical certificate from their GP or Nurse Practitioner.

Disability Allowance and Disability Allowance for Counselling

- A weekly additional payment for anyone on a benefit (including NZ Super) OR low income earners
- For **ongoing, regular** medical costs relating to a health condition, injury or disability
- Maximum amount is \$70.04 per week. How much is paid depends on the persons annual costs.
- Can cover costs such as:
 - Gardening and lawns
 - GP visits
 - Transport
 - Physiotherapy
 - Gym/exercise programme fees
 - Medical alarms
 - Prescription fees
 - Non-subsidised medications

Note – temporary additional support or special needs grants can “top up” the DA costs for some people



Leave Support Scheme

This is available to employers, including self-employed people, to help pay employees who must self-isolate because of COVID-19

LSS is a flat rate of:

- \$600 for workers who were working 20 hours or more a week (full-time)
- \$359 for workers who were working less than 20 hours a week (part-time).

There's no revenue test for this payment.



Other programmes and initiatives

WINZ provides a range of assistance to help people into or back into work – this includes specialised roles that focus on linking people to employers (such as work brokers and employment co-ordinators), employment programmes, grants and financial assistance.

They also support the following initiatives:

- Activity in the Community
- Workability Assessments
- Mana in Mahi
- Employment Placement Service
- Flexi-wage service
- Modification grant
- Some are only available in certain regions eg Vocational Rehabilitation Services





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How to access these supports....

How to navigate the system

Our website <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/>

Our helpline 0800 559 009

Request a review with a Case Manager at your local WINZ office

Use the “Check what you can get” tool to see what benefits you/a client may be eligible for [Check what you might get \(msd.govt.nz\)](#)

Providers can engage directly with regional health and disability advisors and co-ordinators

Thank you!





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