

Changes to Vehicle Purchase and Modification Services

May 2008

The Ministry of Health has recently approved significant changes to the funding guidelines for vehicle purchase and modification services. These expanded services have been made possible following the additional funding for Environmental Support Services announced in Budget 2007. The changes also mean that the support available for people in relation to vehicle purchase and modifications is the same across the country.

The funding guidelines outlining who may be able to get these services are now published on the Accessable <accessible.co.nz> and Disability Funding <disabilityfunding.co.nz> websites. These guidelines will be developed into a formal manual over the next few months, however they are published at this stage so that disabled people can start to benefit from these changes as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Health acknowledges the support from the Professional Advisory teams at Enable New Zealand and Accessable, the Occupational Therapists who are members of the Technical Reference Network and who have represented their colleagues working in this field of practice, and the Advisor, Lottery Grants Board. Their input has been of valuable assistance during the development of these guidelines.

What are the main changes?

Vehicle modifications

- Modifications to family vehicles - families with disabled children (aged 15 years and under) will be able to receive funding support to modify their vehicles so that they can get out and about as a family more safely and easily.
- The requirement for income and asset testing for modifications (such as a vehicle hoist) has been removed.
- The upper limit for vehicle modifications has been increased from \$969.00 (inc. GST) to \$11,900 (inc. GST) in the Enable New Zealand area.
- Funding for purchase of a vehicle is considered separately from funding for modifications; upper limits of \$11,900 (inc. GST) apply to both vehicle purchase and/or vehicle modifications.

Vehicle Purchase

- The maximum level of funding for purchase of a vehicle is \$11,900 (inc. GST). Additional funding is available if the person needs modifications to the vehicle.
- Funding is available on a once-only basis.

When will these new services be available?

The new services are available from 12 May 2008.