



Increased Demand for Ministry of Health Funded Equipment and Modification Services

Wednesday, 28th October 2009 (amended 26/11/2009)

Requests for approval of Ministry funding for equipment, housing and vehicle modifications are now at a level well above the available budget.

In line with Enable New Zealand, **accessible** will immediately implement a nationally consistent process for managing the increasing demand on budget and will only be able to make funding available for the following applications:

- Standard List equipment (including replacement requests)
- Draft Minor Housing Modification Rails Under \$1000 (being released soon)
- Repairs to Ministry funded equipment items
- Urgent applications

A new **urgent P1 application process** is being introduced to ensure that people with the most urgent need for services receive funding first. We do not expect the volume of urgent P1 cases to be high, however this process will be regularly reviewed.

accessible will consider urgent P1 applications and requests for complex equipment replacements, where this has been supported by the Professional Supervisor or Clinical Leader at the assessment service. The reason that this process is being implemented is for the service to discuss and decide if an application meets the new 'urgent' priority:

- sudden/dramatic change to function/situation requiring immediate attention **and**
- there is no alternative to manage the situation **and**
- without the immediate provision of the equipment, housing or vehicle modification the person, their whanau/family or caregiver is at imminent risk of harm.

The Professional Supervisor or Clinical Leader must describe the reasons for urgency. Please note urgent P1 does not mean 'instant'. Urgent P1 applications will be processed within the 4 week timeframe, and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Urgent P1 applications and urgent requests for replacement of complex equipment must be forwarded by email via the Professional Supervisor or Clinical Leader with a supporting statement to: urgentmoh@accessible.co.nz, or faxed to **accessible** Attention: Urgent MOH.

This urgent P1 process will apply immediately to all new equipment, housing and vehicle modification applications, including applications for children. This will also apply to all existing applications currently being processed by **accessible**, including applications currently approved for trial, and notified successful trials.

For all existing applications, including those approved for trial, and notified successful trials, Assessors will need to notify **accessible** if the application meets the new urgent priority and provide their Professional Supervisor or Clinical Leader's supporting statement.

Priority One applications will continue to be processed where suitable reissue equipment (that does not require more than \$500 to refurbish) is available to meet the person's long term needs. Please note reissue equipment is not available as an interim solution.

All other Priority One and Two applications will continue to be processed and allocated funding as and when budget becomes available.

We recognise that longer waiting times may create difficulties for many of you and your clients and do appreciate your understanding and assistance in prioritising the budget that is available.

The Ministry of Health EMS Equipment and Modification Services' Improvement Programme has one project focusing on prioritisation, and we hope that once a new system is introduced in 2010 the prioritisation of applications will be more transparent and fair, in the meantime the above measures need to be applied as demand is far exceeding available budget.