Social Welfare in New Zealand 2016

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M&O Purpose:
We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent
Ko tā mōtou he whakamana tangata kia tū haumaru, kia tū kaha, kia tū motuhake

We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent.

12/04/2016
• Population – around 4.5 million people
• A third live in Auckland and half of the total population live north of Hamilton
• Now One in Eight (11%) of the working age adults (18 to 64yr) live on a Welfare Benefit
• One in Five NZ children live in a household with no one in paid work
• The Ministry of Social Development uses a third of Government expenditure – >$28 Billion (Health spends $18 Billion)
• three-quarters (74%) of disabled people aged 15–64 who weren't employed said they would like to work if a job was available
Work and Income

- Is a service of the Ministry of Social Development

- Provides income support, employment assistance and training opportunities

- Takes a social development approach – supporting people to contribute to their communities and become financially independent through building their skills and confidence
We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent.

About Us

- Recognise and support people’s work potential
- Provide job search support to a wider group of people
- Encourage people receiving a benefit to do everything they can to improve their ability to get a job and enhance the wellbeing of their family
- Safeguards for people who can’t work due to health conditions, mental health conditions or disability
The Social Security Act 1964

- The Social Security Act 1964 defines the assistance that Work and Income can make available to clients

- It establishes the rules for the administration of benefits, grants and allowances and it sets out criteria for these payments
Health: A new definition

• WHO (1948) - …”a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

• New definition:…”as the ability to adapt to change and self manage in the face of social, physical and emotional challenges.” Huber et al 2011, BMJ 343
Determinants of health

- Income
- Access to medical and related services
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
Work and Income Medical Certificates

• **Work Capacity Medical Certificate** (Available in digital copy on ‘Medtech32’ and ‘My Practice’)
• Supported Living Payment medical certificate for a person being cared for
• **Disability Certificate (for Disability Allowance)**
• **Disability Certificate – Counselling**
• **Disability Allowance – Medical Alarm Assessment**
• **Child Disability Allowance – Medical Certificate**
• **Other Medical Certificates: Limited Service Volunteer**
Non Work and Income Medical certificates

- ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation)
- Sick note for Employer
- Private Insurance
- Various sports related Medicals e.g. Diving
Financial Support

• **Jobseeker Support**
  – people available and looking for full-time work
  – temporary deferral for sickness
  – long term/ permanent condition with capacity to work

• **Sole Parent Support**
  – sole parents with dependent children under 14

• **Supported Living Payment**
  – people with serious health conditions or disability unable to work 15 hours or more a week
  – caregivers looking after seriously ill people
### Benefit rates per week

Rates as of 1st April 2015

**Job Seeker Support**
- Single 18-19 at home: $140.08 net
- Single: 18-19 away from home, 20-24 years: $175.10 net
- Single 25+: $210.13 net
- Married, civil union or de facto couple with or without children each: $175.10 net
- Combined: $350.20 net
- Sole Parent: $300.98 net

**Sole Parent Support:**
- $300.98 net

**Supported Living Payment**
- Single 16-17 years: $212.54 net
- Single 18+: $262.64 net
- Married, civil union or de facto couple with or without children each: $218.86 net
- Combined: $437.72 net
- Sole Parent: $345.02 net

**Hospital Rate all Benefits:**
- $43.45 net
Health related assistance

• Disability Allowance – income tested allowance for the additional costs of a disability - 61.69/wk

• Child Disability Allowance – a benefit to acknowledge the extra care and attention the principal care giver provides a child with a significant disability or health condition – not income tested – about “care” and not “cost” - $46.49/wk
Additional Financial Support

• We provide extra help with ongoing costs such as accommodation, child care, and health related costs

• Assistance for one off costs to meet special, unusual, emergency, or immediate needs

• Assistance for costs of returning to the workforce

• Support for Seniors 65+: NZ Superannuation, Veterans Pension
Long acting reversible contraception

• Available to all female beneficiaries and female dependents of beneficiaries over the age of 16yrs are eligible to have the costs associated with the consultation, assessment, insertion and if required the removal.

• This only applies to Subsidised options

• this means it does not normally cover Mirena IUCD insertion

• Assistance is non-recoverable
Social Housing

• From April 2014, The Ministry of Social Development manage applications for social housing and calculate and administer income-related rent.

• Opening up the income-related rent subsidy to non-government providers such as community housing providers and non-government organisations.

• Social Housing providers will continue to be a landlord for their properties.
## Work and Income Employment Approach

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Reasonable accommodation

• **Accommodations** are modifications and adjustments made to enable a person to do something.

• Employers provide ‘reasonable accommodations’ to many employees, such as parents caring for young children or other relatives, staff with religious or ethical beliefs, as well as disabled people.

• It may be for current employees whose situation has changed, or for new employees being recruited.
Examples

• 26 year old male recently diagnosed with bipolar graduated with 1\textsuperscript{st} class honours in economics

• 33 year old male with Aspergers who has an interest in gardening and has recently left a job in retail when the line manager changed.
What is supported employment?

- **Supported Employment** assist people disadvantaged in the labour market due to a disability to reach their career aspirations and to improve and expand inclusive (open) employment opportunities and services for all people with a disability.

- Works with employee and the employer
Employer Strategy

• Worked with major companies to develop a preferred provider arrangement:
  – Sky City
  – Tourism NZ
  – Accor Hotels

• Building of the Supreme Court – an example of how we address multiple issues
• Developed a toolkit for senior managers; HR staff; people managers
• Implementation plan
• Internships
• http://www.ssc.govt.nz/lead
Questions

Any questions?

Thank You!

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For more information visit: www.workandincome.govt.nz