



## Supported Living Payment and Disability Allowance for people affected by Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

### Introduction to Guide

This guide outlines the criteria and medical certification requirements for applications to Work and Income for financial support related to health conditions or disabilities.

Key Focus Areas:

- Supported Living Payment (SLP)
- Disability Allowance (DA)

### Supported Living Payment (SLP)

The SLP is a weekly payment to support individuals with a severe and permanent health condition or disability, or those caring for someone with such a condition.

#### Criteria for Eligibility:

Severe Health Condition:

- Patients must be unable to work **15 or more** hours per week due to their health condition.

Permanent Health Condition:

- The condition is considered permanent if expected to last at least **two** years.

#### Medical Certificate Requirements:

When submitting a **Work Capacity Medical Certificate**, please include:

- A brief description of the patient's symptoms and their impact on work capacity.
- Confirmation that the patient cannot work 15 or more hours per week.
- Confirmation that the health condition is expected to continue for at least two years.

### For more information

- Forms - [www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/forms](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/forms)
- Work Capacity - [www.workandincome.govt.nz/...work-capacity-med-cert-health-practitioners.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/...work-capacity-med-cert-health-practitioners.html)
- SLP - [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/supported-living-payment.html)
- DA - [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/disability-allowance.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/disability-allowance.html)
- Manuals and Procedures - [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map)

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### Disability Allowance (DA)

The DA is a weekly payment to assist individuals with regular, ongoing costs due to a disability or health condition.

#### Medical Certificate Requirements:

Complete the Medical Certificate in the Extra Help form for new Work and Income clients, or in the Disability Allowance form for existing clients, to confirm:

- **Duration:** Disability is expected to last 6 months or more.
- **Ongoing Nature:** Patient requires ongoing support.
- **Additional Costs:** Costs are related to the condition.
- **Necessity:** Goods or services are necessary and therapeutic.

#### Examples of Eligible Costs:

- Medical fees/Pharmaceuticals/Allied Health
- Unsubsidised medications/supplements
- Gardening/lawns/outside window cleaning
- Clothing eg compression stockings
- Activity fees eg gym, pool. Also rental equipment
- Ambulance/Medic Alert annual subscription/fees
- Consumables eg hearing aid batteries
- Power/gas/heating (especially for temperature sensitivities)
- Special foods
- Counselling
- Transport

#### Unsubsidised Medication/Vitamins/Supplements:

To include these costs, provide a letter confirming:

- No suitable subsidised alternatives exist.
- The non-subsidised item is essential and therapeutic.

#### Adding additional costs to an existing Disability Allowance:

If the patient is already receiving DA, both patient and GP need to clearly state on the DA form that the costs are in addition to the existing DA. The Medical Certificate section of the Disability Allowance application needs to be completed by GP for the additional costs.

#### Counselling Costs:

Counselling may be included if it's related to the disability or condition and is therapeutic. A Disability Certificate - Counselling form is completed by patient, GP and Counsellor.

For existing Work and Income clients: If the patient is already receiving DA, complete the Counselling form only. Otherwise the patient needs to complete the full Disability Allowance application and the Counselling form.

For patients who are not existing Work and Income clients, the Extra Help application and the Counselling form need to be completed.