

CARER SUPPORT

*A carer is a person who looks after a person with a disability, at home and on a full-time basis.
Do you do this?*

Do you need 'time out'?

You may be eligible for a Carer Support subsidy, which will help you to pay for someone else to look after the person you usually care for.

You can get Carer Support Subsidy if you are either:

- Looking after someone with a disability who needs 24 hours care at home, and you are not being paid to do so.
- Looking after someone who is terminally ill, or has an ongoing chronic health condition, or an ongoing mental health problem.

Provided they require 24-hour care/supervision

You cannot get the Carer Support Subsidy if the person you are looking after:

- Is recovering from a short-term illness.
- Is already claiming disability support under the Accident Rehabilitation & Compensation Insurance Act.
- Usually lives in a hostel or residential care facility.
- Is being assessed for long term care.

What is a Carer Support Subsidy?

The subsidy rates paid by the Ministry of Health for a **24-hour day** are:

Type of rate	Description	Rate
Formal rate	Relief services provided in a formal/ commercial setting (such as contracted rest homes) including GST.	\$77.23
Informal rate	Informal relief services provided by friends, neighbours, family members* , including GST.	\$80.02

- A family member is defined as a grandparent, daughter, son, sister, brother, aunt, or uncle **not** living with the client.

Carer Support will **not** be paid for:

- Relief care provided by spouses, partners, parents, or other full-time carers

What can you buy with the Carer Support Subsidy?

You can choose how to spend your subsidy, if it goes to someone who will be caring for the person you usually look after. You can use it for half days, whole days, or any length of time up to the total number of days you were allocated at your assessment. You might choose to pay for:

- Short-term residential care (eg, in a rest home or hospital, for the person you care for)
- Someone to take over from you at home, and
- The person you care for to be looked after in someone else's home.

How do you get the Carer Support Subsidy?

If you think you may be eligible for Carer Support (ie, you are caring full-time for a **person with a disability**), contact your local Needs Assessment Service who will be able to arrange for an assessment – Switzer Residential Care staff will refer you if you wish. Following a Needs Assessment and authorisation of Carer Support the Ministry of Health will post out to you a **Carer Support Claims Form**, please put this in a safe place for when you wish to use your Carer Support.

If you have any enquiries regarding Carer Support contact your local Needs Assessment Service 09 408 0010 (ask for the social work department) or the Ministry of Health freephone 0800 281 222.