

Carer Support Subsidy

Who is a Carer? A carer is someone who provides full-time, unpaid support at home for a person with a disability, chronic health condition, mental health issue, or terminal illness requiring 24-hour care and supervision.

Do You Need a Break? If you are a full-time carer, you may be eligible for the Carer Support Subsidy, which helps cover the cost of alternative care while you take time for yourself.

Eligibility Criteria

You may qualify for the Carer Support Subsidy if you are providing full-time care for someone who:

- Has a disability requiring 24-hour care at home, and you are not being paid for this care.
- Has a terminal illness, chronic health condition, or ongoing mental health issue requiring continuous supervision.

You are not eligible if the person you care for:

- Is recovering from a short-term illness.
- Is receiving support under the Accident Rehabilitation & Compensation Insurance Act.
- Normally resides in a hostel or residential care facility.
- Is currently being assessed for long-term residential care.

What is the Carer Support Subsidy?

The subsidy is funded by the Ministry of Health and is paid per 24-hour period of relief care. There are two types of rates:

Rate Type	Description
Formal Rate	Care provided in a formal or commercial setting (e.g., contracted rest homes), including GST.
Informal Rate	Care provided by friends, neighbours, or extended family members* not living with the client, including GST.

*Family members may include grandparents, adult children, siblings, aunts, or uncles who do not reside with the client.

Note: The subsidy cannot be used to pay spouses, partners, parents, or other full-time carers living in the same household.

How Can the Subsidy Be Used?

You have flexibility in how you use your allocated days. The subsidy can be used for:

- Short-term residential care (e.g., in a rest home or hospital).
- In-home relief care provided by someone else.
- Care provided in another person's home.

You may use the subsidy for full days, half days, or any portion of time, up to the total number of days allocated during your assessment.

How to Apply

To access the Carer Support Subsidy:

1. **Contact your local Needs Assessment Service** to arrange an assessment. Switzer Residential Care staff can assist with referrals if needed.
2. Once eligibility is confirmed, the Ministry of Health will send you a **Carer Support Claims Form**. Please store this form safely for future use.

Need More Information?

For further assistance, please contact:

- **Local Needs Assessment Service:** 09 408 0010 (ask for the Social Work Department)
- **Ministry of Health Freephone:** 0800 281 222