

INTERIM FUNDING POOL FOR LONG – TERM SUPPORT SERVICES

Background

People aged under 65 with chronic health conditions can experience difficulty accessing needed long-term support services because they do not meet the access criteria for either Ministry of Health funded disability support services or District Health Board (DHB) funded long-term support services. The Minister of Health has allocated specific funding for long-term support services for this client group.

What is the Interim Funding Pool?

The Interim Funding Pool for Long-Term Support Services (the IFP) is the interim system that was put in place on 13 November 2006 to administer this funding while policy work is underway to allocate ongoing funding responsibility for funding long-term support services for this client group. In July 2007 the Minister of Health decided, in principle, subject to the capacity and capability of DHBs, to allocate responsibility to DHBs for long-term support services for people under the age of 65 with chronic health conditions. Policy work is currently underway to progress this.

Who administers/funds the Interim Funding Pool?

The IFP is currently the funding responsibility of the Ministry of Health and therefore administered through its contracted services.

Who is eligible for the Interim Funding Pool?

The IFP is targeted at people with chronic health conditions and high need for long-term support services who:

- are aged under 65
- do not meet current eligibility criteria for Ministry funded disability support services or DHB funded long-term support services. DHB funded long-term support services are defined as the range of services that DHBs fund for people aged 65 and over and those aged 50 to 64 who have been assessed as 'close in interest' to older people¹
- have one or more chronic conditions. This can include dementias such as Alzheimer's disease or Korsakoff's syndrome
- have a high need for long-term support services that is expected to last for six months or longer. High need is assessed as requiring assistance² with activities of daily living at least once a day for five days a week to remain safely in their own home or needing residential care. The person's wellbeing and functional status is deteriorating, their needs are increasing and safety issues are becoming apparent. The person has limited opportunity to participate in age appropriate activity. Some or most of the assistance with activities of daily living could be provided by family, whānau or friends. The IFP would fund any additional formal support services needed
- do not have an informal support system (family/whānau) or the caregiver is under considerable pressure and their ability to support the person is compromised.

¹ When revising the IFP eligibility criteria on 8 May 2007, Ministry and DHB representatives agreed to the transfer of a small number of clients already funded through the Ministry or DHBs to the IFP.

² Assistance refers to physical hands-on care or close supervision. For children this refers to significantly higher levels of care than would usually be expected for the child's age.

IFP National Reviewer

A separate IFP National Reviewer role has been established to ensure national consistency in applying the eligibility criteria and allocating support packages for IFP clients.

Who will not qualify for the Interim Funding Pool?

People are not eligible for IFP funding if they:

- **will need support services for less than 6 months**
- **meet the access criteria for ACC funded services**
- **meet the access criteria for Ministry funded disability support services**
- **are aged 65 and over or are aged 50 to 64 and assessed as being 'close in interest' to older people**
- **do not meet the eligibility criteria for having a chronic health condition and a high need for long-term support services**
- are receiving treatment for mental health conditions such as schizophrenia or depression - their support services will be part of their mental health service package.

IFP clients can also access services funded by other government departments such as the Ministries of Education or Social Development if they meet the access and prioritisation criteria for those services.

What kind of support services will the Interim Funding Pool cover?

The services that can be purchased with the IFP funding are:

- Home Based Support Services (e.g. personal care, household management)
- Carer Support (including residential respite services) This is a subsidy for support services needed to assist the unpaid full time carer of an IFP client to take a break from caring for that person
- Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) for those clients not eligible for Ministry DSS funded EMS. EMS may be equipment, housing or vehicle modifications
- Residential Support Services for people who need 24 hour support. This could be provided within aged residential care services or residential services provided for people with physical disabilities.

How can people access the Interim Funding Pool?

Eligible clients can access the IFP through a referral from a health practitioner to either a Ministry or DHB-funded Needs Assessment/Service Co-ordination service.

Each DHB has a nominated IFP liaison/contact person. Their role is to facilitate collaboration between referrers, other relevant health professionals and the Ministry contracted NASC, to enable eligible clients to access the interim funding pool in a timely way.