



Equipment and Housing Modification Process

Parent/Caregiver Information



The Child Development Service has received a referral for your child requesting an assessment of their needs related to their housing/equipment requirements. Please find two attached information sheets from the Ministry of Health relating to housing modifications.

Our service has occupational therapists whom are accredited assessors with Enable New Zealand. They are able to determine the needs of your child, and their eligibility for Ministry of Health (MOH) funding for housing modifications. Please note, as per the information sheets, the funding process can take a long time, and funding for modification is usually only approved once. Careful consideration of what is required now and in the future is extremely important.

- Strategies such as moving to a single storey house; considering the use or purchase of equipment; and/or privately funding some alterations can also be considered.
- Should a new build be planned, the MOH expects that level entry, suitable width doors and other requirements as are detailed on the MOH hand out included with this letter, are considered. Some exceptions are considered to meet recent Council bylaws, eg. flood planes.
- When challenging behaviours are the underlying cause for considering housing modifications, (including a fenced play area with safety features), the Occupational Therapy assessor will need to follow the 'Children and Young People with Challenging Behaviours Consideration of Equipment and Modification Services' guidelines released by the Ministry of Health in 2010. This includes consulting/ liaising with appropriate behavioural services, and establishing and following

agreed behaviour plans. The interagency approach typically involves, the therapy team, the Lifelinks assessor (NASC), and the Explore Behaviour Support Service.

- Equipment and or modifications can only include features that do not occur within typical child development, ie. a home with a toddler would be expected to provide some safety fencing.
- Parents have the opportunity to request a 'cost contribution' from Enable towards the modifications, which have to have the disability related need identified, and plans and funding approved prior to any building commencing. A cost contribution can be requested when families wish to use a non contracted builder or add additional non disability related work into the modifications planned. Please see enclosed fact sheet for more information.
- All MOH-funded modifications are required to be the most cost effective scenario, eg. builders are only expected to 'make good', not repaint the whole bathroom.
- On completion of the recommended modifications, all works will need to be reviewed by your Occupational Therapist to ensure the MOH-funded modifications have been completed to a minimum MOH-standard before funding can be released.

The occupational therapy assessor will discuss the housing modification process in more depth once the assessment process commences. We are aware there is a waiting list for occupational therapy assessments; however hope this information is beneficial in the interim.

We have also enclosed a basic safety hand out for families to consider in the short term, including: appendices, ENAH106, HP5683, and CDS basic safety recommendations.