

# Financial Help with your Income

## Child Disability Allowance

This allowance can be made to the parent or guardian of a disabled child who lives at home and requires constant care and attention. Usually the allowance stops when the child turns 18 years old (unless the young person starts to receive the Supported Living Payment prior to that). Children can apply for the Supported Living Payment when they turn 16 years old.

You receive a set amount per week from Work and Income and this **is not** income tested.

## Disability Allowance

The Disability Allowance is for people who have a disability and need help with everyday tasks or ongoing medical care. You can apply on behalf of a child if they are aged 18 years or under and financially dependent on you. It helps with things like regular visits to the doctor or hospital, prescriptions, medical alarms and extra clothing or travel if these arise from your child's disability.

You may be able to get both the Disability Allowance and the Child Disability Allowance. You can get the Disability Allowance on its own or with another type of income support. Your application will need to be supported by a doctor. This Work and Income allowance **is** income tested.

## Supported Living Payment

This is for people who have, or are caring for someone with a health condition, injury or disability. The person can be a child, family member or another member of your community in your care. Your application will need to be supported by a doctor who will advise whether your child meets the medical criteria. This Work and Income allowance **is** income tested.

## Working for Families Tax Credits

Working for Families payments vary depending on your income and the number of children in your family. There are four types of payments; family tax credit, in-work tax credit, minimum family tax credit and parental tax credit. You may qualify for one or more, depending on your personal situation.

This allowance **is** income tested is administered by Work and Income and the Inland Revenue Department (IRD).

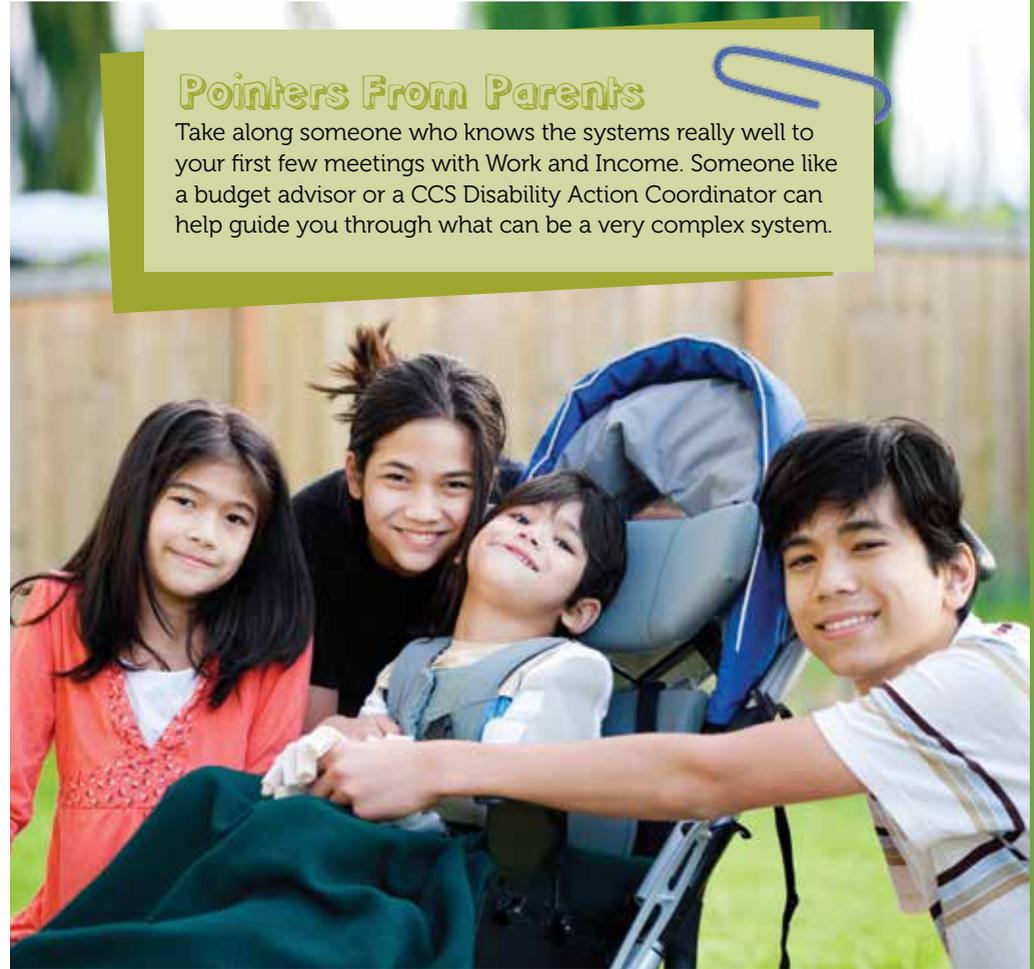
**The Disability Allowance can help cover those extra costs that you may incur.**

**If you are not sure what might be considered extra, check with your networks.**

“Unfortunately the financial help you receive may not reflect the true cost of raising your child, but it's still worth exploring all the options available to you.”

## Pointers From Parents

Take along someone who knows the systems really well to your first few meetings with Work and Income. Someone like a budget advisor or a CCS Disability Action Coordinator can help guide you through what can be a very complex system.



## Unsupported Child's Benefit

If you are caring for a child who is financially dependent on you and is not able to be cared for by their parents, you may be entitled to the Unsupported Child's Benefit. This applies to families who expect to care for this child for 12 months or longer.

When you apply for an Unsupported Child's Benefit for a child, the parent/caregiver will be invited to discuss the situation. There are some circumstances where this won't happen,

so discuss your circumstances with Work and Income New Zealand.

This allowance **is** income tested and depends on the child or young person's age and any income they have.



**Your local Community Link (page 78) or Heartlands Centre (page 78) is a great source of brochures, forms and information, especially if you don't have internet access.**