



NCWNZ Action Item Response Sheet

Please send your responses to

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<b>Document</b>	Paying Family Carers to Provide Disability Support
<b>Committee/Writer</b>	Family Affairs
<b>Action Item due date</b>	26 October 2012
<b>Responder, eg Name of Branch, NOS, individual</b>	
<b>Number of people contributing to response</b>	

For over 20 years, parents, spouses or resident family members have not been eligible for payment to provide support for their disabled relatives.

The Government has decided not to appeal the Court's decision in the family carers case [Ministry of Health v Atkinson and Others]. The Government accepts that the Ministry of Health's blanket policy of not paying certain family carers [parents, spouses and resident family members] for providing home and community support to their disabled family members is discriminatory under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The consultation paper describes a range of possible policy options for paying family carers providing disability support to disabled people that does not discriminate on the basis of family status.

The Ministry directly spends about \$1.028 billion a year of Vote Health funding on a variety of disability support services: home and community support; respite and carer support; day programmes; supported living; community residential support; environmental supports; disability information and advisory services; and needs assessment and service coordination services. These services provide support for around 30,350 people [usually aged under 65] with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities who need ongoing support, and their carers.

Policy to address the court's decision needs to be achieved by May 2013. The future policy needs to balance the interests of those who are being cared for, those doing the caring and taxpayers. It needs to address the discrimination but it must be affordable and sustainable. The focus of this consultation paper is on parents and resident family members of disabled adults and the provision of home and community support needs.

This is a crucial issue for carers – how their work might be recognized [through formal employment, for example, or by receiving an allowance].

For further information: <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/consultation-paying-family-carers-provide-disability-support-2012>

Questions to be considered:

- 1: How can we ensure good outcomes for the disabled person and their family under a policy allowing family carers to be paid?
- 2: Should there be a requirement for disabled people to have independent support for planning and building networks before family carers can be paid?
- 3: Should eligibility for payment be targeted?
- 4: How should family carers be paid?
- 5: What should family carers be paid for?
- 6: Should a new family carers payment be established through the welfare system?
- 7: What do you see as the benefits and/or issues of recognising the contribution of family carers through a family carers payment, administered through the welfare system?
- 8: Allowing family members to provide disability support for the long term will require long-term support systems being centred on the individual. What approaches could be made in supporting family members to achieve this?
- 9: Should the increased costs be funded from within the funding that is already allocated to disability support?
- 10: How should new policy address the issue of quality and safety of the paid support received by disabled people?